



Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) participate in counter improvised explosive device training, Jan. 29, as part of the integration process shortly after arriving at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Members of the group have been in country for a week and are learning the lay of the land, rules of the base, and procedures for missions outside the wire.

1st MLG arrives at Camp Leatherneck

Story and photos by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Several Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) arrived at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, kicking off the start of a slated year-long

deployment, Jan. 24. Members of the group conducted integration training which included learning the lay of the land, rules of the base, and procedures for operating outside the wire.

For all troops entering the country a Reception, Staging, Onward-movement and Integration brief

and counter improvised explosive device training are required for all newly arrived personnel.

“The importance for all hands to go through this training, regardless of their mission, is in the event they have to leave the wire,” said Sgt. Seth Regeczi, a chief instructor for RSO&I training. “We put them

through situations they may have to face, so they have a general idea of what to do and have some form of training to fall back on.”

For some members of the group, this is a first deployment in country offering a chance to see a different part of the world.

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Main body charges to Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Families and friends stood by and watched as more than 150 Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) loaded onto buses for their journey to Afghanistan here, Jan. 20.

The service members are headed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While on the brightly lit parade deck, families and friends of deploying personnel, as well as fellow service members gathered to have their final conversations in person for at least the next six months to a year. For some, it was just another deployment, but for many, this is the first time they're leaving the country in the Marine uniform. It wasn't the fact that they're headed to an unfamiliar land that troubled them, the hardest part was saying goodbye to the people and the luxuries



A Marine with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) helps his daughter tie her shoes, before he boards the bus at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 20. More than 150 Marine and sailors with 1st MLG (FWD) left for Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

they love most.

"It's hard for me because I had to leave my daughter," said Cpl. Brittany Anderson, administration clerk, G-1, 1st MLG (FWD), who was deploying for the first time.

Even though it's hard to leave everything behind, everyone understood it's their duty, Anderson

explained. Her 2-year-old daughter moved to Texas so her grandparents could help raise her while Anderson is deployed. She's going to miss a part of her daughter's childhood, but she's looking forward to the day she reunites with her baby girl.

"It's been hard to deal with already, but I am looking forward to deploying," said Anderson. "It'll make the reunion even more meaningful that way."

As the buses drove up and the deploying unit started loading their bags, the announcement sounded through the speakers, "15 minutes before we depart." The last few minutes were filled with hugs, kisses and handshakes before it was time for everyone to board the buses and take off to their next destination.

It was finally their time to leave. As the buses disappeared off of the lit parade deck onto the dark road, family members waved goodbye for the last time, and began the countdown until their reunion.



Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) board the bus at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 20, on their journey to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

HAPPENINGS

Arrive Alive

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

Tuition Assistance Class

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

Motorcycle Safety Courses

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

MCCS Mardi Gras 2012

Mardi Gras event for ages 18 and up is schedule to be at the Pacific Views Event Center, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 for general public and \$15 for active members with I.D. Tickets are available at all ITT locations on Camp Pendleton, the Country Store and at the door.

Valentine Day Sale

In celebration of Valentines Day, Marine Corps Exchange will have a sale at all MCXs from Feb. 1-14.



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Undersecretary of Navy visits Camp Leatherneck



Photo by Cpl. Michele Watson

Robert Work, the undersecretary of the Navy, speaks with Marines and sailors from 1st and 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) during a dinner and visit to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 30. Following a casual discussion with the troops about opinions of the base and job responsibilities, Work gave out coins to each attendee. Prior to the dinner, Work visited the sort lot, an inventory area that organizes supplies, to gather information on the retrograde of materials in country, as well as met with personnel and Wounded Warriors at the Concussion Restoration Care Clinic.

ARRIVAL

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“I am excited to do my part in Afghanistan and see what experiences this deployment has to offer,” said Seaman Anthony Rich, a corpsman with 1st MLG (FWD).

Those service members returning to Afghanistan have noticed many changes over the past year.

“One of the most dramatic changes is the two-man cans,” said Gunnery Sgt. Dana Dockery, the company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters Company, 1st MLG (FWD). “Last time I was here, for the most part, it was 12 to a room.”

Dockery, who was here from fall 2010 to spring 2011, added that the flight line for the fixed and rotary wing aircraft has improved dramatically. Roads are much better for driving and the Post Exchange, which was once located in a tent, is now much larger and located in a permanent building.

While a year may seem like a long road ahead, the Marines and sailors of 1st MLG (FWD) are setting the stage for a smooth tour.

“I think we have a good group of people that we’re working with and that will make the deployment a lot easier,” said Dockery. “It’s good to be back, but it will be good to leave.”



Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) participate in counter improvised explosive device training, Jan. 29, as part of the integration process shortly after arriving at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Members of the group have been in country for a week and are learning the lay of the land, rules of the base, and procedures for missions outside the wire.



GIVE HIM ONE!

1ST SGT. MICHAEL CATO

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

After spending the majority of his career in the infantry, 1st Sgt. Michael Cato is now taking on the challenge of being the senior enlisted Marine in a logistics unit.

Cato, from Temecula, Calif., served as the company first sergeant of 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, before taking his current billet as company first sergeant with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Cato has been in the Marine Corps for almost 18 years. He joined in 1994 and after recruit training and MOS school he received in his original MOS as a Light Armored Vehicle Crewman. Being at a logistics unit has been 'an adjustment' from what Cato is used to.

"It's a different dynamic," said Cato, 37. "There is a different mission set where we would focus on the field in my previous unit, here they focus on getting gear in and getting gear out."

Throughout his career, Cato has served in various billets. In December 1997 First Sergeant Cato received orders to School of Infantry West, Camp Pendleton, Calif. and served as an instructor and staff noncommissioned officer in charge. A few years later in September 2001, Cato received order to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif. for Drill Instructor School. During his tour on the drill field he filled the following billets of Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Chief Drill Instructor for Lima Co., 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. Cato reported to the Naval Academy for duty in March 2007 and served as the 10th Company Senior Enlisted Advisor until September 2009.



1st Sgt. Michael Cato, company first sergeant, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, works at his new office aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan 31. Throughout his 18-year career, Cato has served in various billets such as School of Infantry instructor, a drill instructor and as an instructor at the Naval Academy. Cato, from Temecula, Calif., served as the company first sergeant of 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, before taking his current billet.

Cato has also been on several deployments. He deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Wasp straight to the Adriatic Sea in support of Operations Deny Flight, Joint Endeavor, and Provide Promise. He deployed in 1996 in support Operation Agile Lion, in Stuttgart, Germany. In 2005 he deployed to Fallujah, Iraq in support of OIF III with India Co, 1st Platoon. Then he deployed in July 2006 to Okinawa, Japan as part of the 31st MEU.

Out of all the units Cato has

been with, he stated that the Marines are the same only the mission is different.

"The job and the Marines are the same," said Cato. "I don't see a difference in the Marines as far as attitude, moral and discipline."

In his short time with the unit, he said he has been impressed by what he has seen.

"The unit, so far since I've been here, has been great," said Cato. "Great staff [noncommissioned officers], great officers and Marines in general. They're motivating and I wasn't expect-

ing anything less before I got over here. But at the same time, getting here and seeing first-hand how well the Marines carry themselves is even more impressive than my initial expectations."

Cato's plan as he moves forward with HQ Co. is to bring out the competitive edge between the companies in order to build more camaraderie.

"I want to bring more unity to [HQ Co.]," said Cato. "Holding little competitions such as sports tournaments between the companies would make that unity."

Motorized Immersion Trainer

1st Maintenance Battalion completes pre-deployment training

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a motorized immersion training exercise here, Jan. 26.

As their deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, to support Operation Enduring Freedom rapidly approaches, the battalion wanted to finalize their operational procedures and weld together a strong team of Marines through this training event.

“Everyone has to crawl before they can walk and run. The MIT is our running stage,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew Jarratt, watch officer, 1st Maintenance Bn. “We want to finalize our [standard operating procedures], especially for motorized operations and [Command Operations Center] operations.”

The MIT is a scenario-based exercise, which includes combat logistics patrol missions, vehicle recovery missions, resupply and reinforcement missions, explained Jarratt, 24, from Marietta, Ga.

The main key of the training was to see how Marines adapt and respond to each scenario, as well as seeing how companies within the battalion work together, Jarratt said.

“The Marines are doing very



Sgt. Denjer Davis (center), 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, the combat logistics patrol commander for the exercise, briefs the route they're taking to the security team before a recovery mission during a motorized immersion training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26.

well,” said Jarratt. “We’re all very excited to be deploying. Everybody is giving their maximum [effort] and their performance has only been increasing.”

Jarratt wasn’t the only one who thought so, even the operations officer, Maj. Bolivar Pluas, noticed how much effort the Marines put forth.

“They’re doing an outstanding job,” he said. “They’ve been going full speed for the last four months as

the battalion prepares for the deployment to Afghanistan in March.”

To help the exercise be as realistic as possible for service members, role players assisted Marines in learning how to interact with the local nationals, as well as dealing with hostile insurgents.

“It’s good training, especially for the younger guys who have never been deployed before,” said Sgt. Denjer Davis, 25, from Huron, S.D.,

CLP commander for the scenario. “They get the skills and the experience they need now so they’re not getting lost when we’re there. The Marines are well prepared. They trained as if this is the real thing and they are anxious to go.”

After completing their final step of the pre-deployment training process, Marines with 1st Maintenance Bn. were eager to deploy and carry-out their missions.



Cpl. Ramon Gurrola, 26, from St. Paul, Minn., security personnel, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, performs a radio check prior to a recovery mission during a motorized immersion training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26.



Marines with 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, stage their vehicles for a recovery mission during a motorized immersion training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26.

Dr. Biden thanks Marines, families at Camp Pendleton

Story and photo by

Elaine Sanchez

American Forces Press Service

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, took a whirlwind tour of the base here [Jan. 20], thanking Marines and their families at each stop along the way.

Biden's first stop was the infantry immersion trainer, located down a winding dirt road. This state-of-the-art training complex simulates situations Marines may encounter, both indoors and out, in Afghanistan.

Standing on a rooftop, Biden watched a live-fire exercise unfold on the dusty roads below. The center features a realistic bazaar, complete with shopkeepers calling out to troops to entice them to buy their wares.

A Marine patrol entered the bazaar and, moments later, a loud explosion echoed in the air. A role-player acting as an Afghan woman, whose leg had been "blown off," fell to the ground, screaming in pain. The Marines rushed to help her as a rocket-propelled grenade, shot from Biden's rooftop, flew past.

After the Marines secured the area and carried the woman out of the bazaar, Biden descended to survey the scene below. She watched as Marines met with simulated Afghan leaders, then spoke with members of a female engagement team.

The overall experience was incredible, she told reporters on her way out.

"It's been an amazing experience to be here," she said. "It made me realize just how difficult it is for our military when they go to Afghanistan and when they went to Iraq. The sights and sounds and smells -- everything is so different than they're used to.

"Americans should be really proud," she added.

The experience, she said, also made her think of what her son may have experienced during his deployment. Beau Biden, who is a major in the Delaware Army National Guard, deployed to Iraq for a year in 2008.

Biden's next stop was to visit with Marines and their families of the 1st Marine Logistics Group's explosive ordnance disposal unit. A large group of Marines and spouses, kids in tow, sat at long tables waiting to visit with Biden and partake in a barbecue lunch.

In brief remarks upon her arrival, Biden said the Joining Forces campaign is about acknowledging the sacrifices being made by troops and their families, including those in this room. First Lady Michelle Obama and Biden launched this nationwide initiative last year to raise awareness of troops, veterans and their families, and to rally the nation around them.

"I know Michelle would want me to say ... thank you for everything you're doing, for your service to this country, because in this administration you are our priority, to make sure you



Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, holds 15-month-old Sienna during a visit to the 1st Marine Logistics Group's explosive ordnance disposal unit on Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 20. Sienna's mother, Chrissy Holley, is a Gold Star wife. Her husband, Gunnery Sgt. Floyd Holley, died in Afghanistan's Helmand province in 2010 when he was hit by a blast from an improvised explosive device.

are well taken care of," she said. "It's our sacred honor to take care of you."

After she spoke, Biden greeted and posed for pictures with nearly everyone in the crowd.

Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Gus Lepping and his girlfriend, Roxanne McKenna, said they were excited to meet Biden. "It's great she came out and showed her appreciation," McKenna said. "It was really thoughtful."

"Her being a mother of a service member who has been deployed before, she obviously understands," Lepping added. "It's nice to know she supports us."

On her way out, Biden viewed a wall of portraits that honors fallen EOD Marines and Navy corpsmen.

Biden's final stop was at the Warrior Hope and Care Center. This 30,000-square-foot center, part of the Wounded Warrior Battalion West, opened here in October to offer counseling and transition services to wounded and ill Marines, sailors and their families.

The vice president, who had been attending events in Los Angeles earlier that day, joined his wife at the center. They visited with about a dozen wounded warriors and their families.

The vice president said he and his wife visit service members and their families as often as possible for one reason: "To say thank you."

"We only have one sacred obligation in the government," Biden told the troops. "We have a lot of obligations -- to the old, to the young, to

educate -- but we have only one sacred obligation, and that is to equip those we send to war and care for those we bring home from war.

"It is the single most significant obligation the United States of America has," he added.

Dr. Biden's escort, Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, commander of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command, noted his gratitude for her visit.

"We are very appreciative she came to visit us today," he said. "Camp Pendleton has been so much involved in the combat operations for the past 10 years."

Biden's visit, "is wonderful for the family and Marines, and I know Mrs. Biden is very appreciate as well," he added.

The Bidens' visit here marked the final stop of a three-day West Coast trip. A day prior, Dr. Biden joined a group of educators at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles for a discussion on how schools can better serve and support military families.

Earlier in the week, Biden visited the Veterans Affairs Department's Palo Alto Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, where she discussed the continuum of care for wounded warriors with patients, staff and caregivers. Later that day, Biden, alongside U.S. Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra and Peter Levin, chief technology officer for VA, participated in an "Apps for Heroes" event in San Francisco.

Jane Wayne Day

CLB-15 Friends, families experience day in the life of their Marine

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

— Often enough, friends and families of Marines and sailors say they do not understand their service members, nor do they know what these service members actually do at work.

Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, hosted a Jane Wayne Day for their friends and families here, Jan. 27, in order to share their experience as the elite fighting force.

Jane Wayne Day is one of many old Marine Corps traditions, created to allow service members' friends and families to 'step on to those yellow footprints' for a day.

"We want to expose our family members to the jobs and duties of our Marines and sailors in the battalion," said Lt. Col. John Wiener, battalion commander, CLB-15. "Not to mention it's a great way to bring everyone together to learn about what we do, to have a chance to get to know each other and build that unit cohesion as we get ready to deploy."

To show their loved ones what their Marines and sailors could be doing during their upcoming deployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the day kicked off at Red Beach, where the crowd watched as an amphibious assault vehicle landed and deployed several tactical vehicles onto shore.

The group then received classes and demonstrations of how each of these vehicles operates and their purposes, as well as some of the equipment service members carried with them.

One in particular that captured the most attention from the group was a static display of a bomb suit and two robots set up by explosive ordnance disposal Marines. Everyone wanted to either control the robots or try on the suit.

"It was so cool, and it wasn't heavy at all," said Megan Pio-



Megan Pioszak, 27, from Royal Oak, Mich., puts on a bomb suit of an explosive ordnance disposal specialist at a Jane Wayne Day hosted by Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 27.

szak, 27, from Royal Oak, Mich. "This is probably the closest experience of being an astronaut that I'll get in my entire life."

A day in the field as a Marine wouldn't be complete without consuming a few Meal, Ready to Eat packages. The group learned to strip down an MRE and prepare its main course for a hot serving.

Once everyone finished with their meal, the group was bused to a nearby range, where they were introduced to a few weapon systems that service members used — such as the M249 squad automatic weapon, M240B machine gun, M4 assault rifle and the M9 pistol.

"I'm looking forward to shooting the SAW," said Jennifer Laurvick, 22, from Yakima, Wash.

Unfortunately, the SAW wasn't on the agenda of weapons that friends and families can shoot. However, they were allowed to shoot the M4 assault rifle and the M9 pistol, as well as watching a demonstration of the SAW and the M240B in action.

"Even though I didn't get to



A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, takes a photo of his wife as she's aiming down the sight of the M249 squad automatic weapon as part of the battalion's Jane Wayne Day aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 27.

shoot the SAW, it was still really fun," said Laurvick. "We have an M4 at home so it's nothing new to me. But it was awesome putting it on burst. I enjoy every part of his service. I know he's doing it for the right cause and I'm behind him all the way."

Laurvick added, "I really appreciate everything that was put together for us. I'm glad us spouses get to come out and experience what our Marines and sailors do each and every day."

Wiener was pleased with the outcome of the event.

"It was a very successful event," said Wiener, 43, from Cherry Hill, N.J. "The battalion trained long and hard this past few months to prepare for our deployment and they deserved to have some fun. They've accomplished all the requirement of the robust pre-deployment training phase. The battalion is well prepared for any challenges that lay ahead."

1st MLG FROs enhance their skills during seminar

Story by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Family Readiness Officers with 1st Marine Logistics Group participated in the I Marine Expeditionary Force FRO Professional Development Seminar here Jan 26.

The seminar was held to discuss ways to improve their ability to help service members' families as well as new ways to provide information they need.

The seminar was initiated last year by Lt. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, commanding general, I MEF, to provide FROs with additional training in areas they assist families with on a regular basis.

Before the start of the seminar Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow, commanding general, 1st MLG spoke with the 1st MLG FROs about how important it was for them to attend the seminar how it prepares them better for the future. He also thanked them for the hard work they have been doing.

"Since 2003 1st [Fleet Service Support Group] now 1st MLG has been deployed," said Broadmeadow. "There hasn't been one time the entire MLG has been back

here. I thank you for keeping our Marines families informed and providing them with everything they need."

FROs serve as 'the link' between the commanding officer and the families of the Marines and sailors in their unit. They provide information and resources to services members and spouses to assist them in making the best decisions for their family.

"Our job as FROs is to make sure the Marines, sailors and their family members have the right tools to make sure they are in a good position for the future," said Eric Bradford, the FRO for 1st MLG.

During the seminar the FROs discussed what they think they needed to accomplish their mission of assisting families. The focal point of the discussion was leadership. They discussed leadership styles, tools and the development of new leaders.

Aside from learning about leadership, the FROs also received training on human relations to assist in interacting and informing families and social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and EMarine. EMarine is a new social networking site for Marines, sailors and their families



Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow and the Family Readiness Officers of 1st Marine Logistics Group pose for a picture before the start of the I Marine Expeditionary Force FRO Professional Development Seminar at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26. The seminar was held to discuss ways to improve their ability to help service members' families as well as new ways to get them the information they need.

that allows them to get more specific information about what is happening in their unit.

Each FRO got a chance to participate and share things that helped them or someone they knew in certain situations. By having the floor open to everyone it helped give different perspectives and get more feedback from

everyone.

Before Broadmeadow departed he left the FROs of 1st MLG with his plan for the future and thanked them for their hard work.

"We're going to be in a period of transition and we all need to be collectively ready for that," said Broadmeadow. "Thank you for what you do. I'm very pleased."

Chaplain's Corner

There are certain words that have suffered distortion and subsequently lose their simple meaning and impact. Such is the case with the word, "religion." Not only does "religion" seem old school, but it triggers an acid reflux kind of distaste. There are some in my own faith group who decry the term "religion" as stale, cold, mechanical, and impersonal-even hypocritical. Several years ago, an acquaintance of mine, a Christian disc jockey, vigorously exclaimed, "I hate religion!" In my experience in ministry I have encountered many who denounce religion with similar disdain. Even a recent popular You-Tube video renders religion as obsolete in answering life's deepest questions.

Can religion really be that bad? As an observer of faith traditions

outside of my own it doesn't seem so. One positive impact of "religion" is the outward focus of one's faith to those in need. One Bible verse puts it this way, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this to visit orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

Such "pure (or genuine) religion" becomes the anti-dote to the cancer of worldly indifference. When we live it out by caring for the most lonely and needy in society, (orphans, widows, single mothers, etc.), we rescue our souls from the contaminating influence of this material world with all of its attending vices. Though material possessions are not in and of themselves evil, if left unchecked they can lure us into the quicksand of

immoral self-indulgence which is often the cause of many addictions. However, when our religious practices are other-centered, we find ourselves spared from the burden of selfishness and egocentric pursuits. Rightly practiced, religion can be the experience of God's love amidst the myriad of life's spiritual and social ailments.

Perhaps the question we need to ask is not whether religion is good or bad. Rather, we should discern what kind of religion is being manifested among us. I am reminded of the example of Jesus whose religious practices addressed real needs such as hunger, sickness, and social alienation, to name a few. In him we saw religion at its best in the way he cared for widows and orphans, the afflicted, diseased, the socially ostracized, and in the washing of his disciples' feet as an act of sincere love. Now that kind of religion is a beautiful thing!



Lt. Cmdr. Dan Klender
Regimental Chaplain
Combat Logistics Regiment 1
1st Marine Logistics Group

CLR-17 Marines build confidence with training

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

— Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, couldn't think of a better way to kick off a new year than to put their commitment to the Corps to the test in a closed, gas-filled room, known as the confidence chamber.

More than 70 service members with CLR-17 attended Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training here, Jan. 20.

To these Marines, nine seconds is crucial to don their gas mask, clear it and have a complete seal, explained Cpl. Travis Armstrong, CBRN specialist, G-3, 1st MLG.

"Because of how important this training is and how vital every second is, everyone has to pay attention and understand what to do if we ever have to deal with situations like this," said Lance Cpl. Corey Funk, CBRN specialist, CLR-17, 1st MLG.

The confidence chamber provided Marines with information about the history of CBRN and the proper way to use their equipment, such as the new M-50 field-protective mask and the Mission Ori-



A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, breaks the seal of his gas mask during Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training exercise inside a confidence chamber aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 20.

ented Protective Posture suit, said Armstrong, 23, from Warrensburg, Mo. The course also taught correct hand-and-arm signals, how to utilize the safety kit and the decontamination process.

"This course is all about building their confidence in the equipment," said Armstrong. "I'd rather have them freaking out inside the chamber now and conquer that fear, than being unprepared in combat."

Prior to going through the confidence chamber, Marines conducted practical application to build

confidence with their gear. Armstrong utilized volunteers to demonstrate how to equip and operate the MOPP suits and the new M-50 field-protective masks.

"This is good training," said Lance Cpl. Patrick Regan, intelligence analyst, G-2, 1st MLG. "Everything was well prepared and the instructors made it easy for everyone to understand."

After completing the chamber, Regan, 24, from Pasadena, Calif., felt prepared and ready for any chemical attack. He said he grew more confident with his

gear and believed that he could "stay cool" under pressure, even in strenuous situations.

"If they want to attack us using chemical, biological or radiological, I say bring it on," said Regan. "The instructor did a great job explaining things to us and I feel that we're trained and prepared."

Funk, 19, from Gloversville, N.Y., said he enjoys teaching the Marines and sharing his knowledge about CBRN to his brothers and sisters. He wants everyone to know what they have to do during a time of crisis.

"If they know how everything operates and how to handle the situation, then nothing surprises them and they'll be able to keep their composure when the time comes," said Funk.

Once everyone understood the course and was equipped with the proper gear, Armstrong and Funk led them to a confidence chamber filled with CS gas, commonly known as tear gas. Here, they performed and completed exercises given by the instructors in order to complete the course.

"The Marine Corps doesn't call it the confidence chamber for nothing," said Armstrong. "By being able to keep their composure in this type of environment, they'll be able to assist and save the others."



Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, enter a confidence chamber as Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training, part of their annual training aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 20.



Marines and sailors with 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group conducts a 12-mile hike on Camp Pendleton, Calif. Jan. 27.

Start Strong, Finish Strong 12 miles no problem for 1st Supply Battalion

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
 Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The sun was barely breaking into the horizon, but they were already in formation and preparing their gear, getting ready for what through the lay ahead.

More than 300 Marines and sailors with 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group conducted a 12-mile hike through the rolling hills here, Jan. 27.

The purpose of the hike was to get all the service members together and build camaraderie between the companies within the battalion.

Five minutes before they stepped off the entire battalion stood up to get their packs on their backs. They then departed on their hike around 22 Area. The route was flat with several massive hills throughout the 12 miles.

“Let’s go Marines. You got it, you’re all doing good.” screamed Lt. Col. Michael Murchison, battal-

ion commander of 1st Supply Bn.

A few more miles into the hike fatigue could be seen on some of the Marines faces, but they pushed on. ‘There are only a few miles left,’ could be heard throughout the battalion as they made their way towards the end of the hike. Approximately four hours later every Marine and sailor walked to the parade deck with relief, the hike was finally over. Everyone made it through without a problem. The companies formed up, dropped their packs and waited.

“When you receive the command form a school circle around the battalion commander,” all of the platoon sergeants said to their Marines. Everyone charged forward giving out a loud war cry.

“Good job out there Marines,” said Murchison. “I can say the hike was challenging, but everyone made it through without a problem.”

Sgt. Maj. Carri Belle, battalion sergeant major, 1st Supply Bn., also added “The Marines did a great job. I give 100 percent and they give 100 percent back.”



Marines and sailor with 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group charge up a hill during a 12-mile hike they conducted on Camp Pendleton, Calif. Jan. 27.



Corpsmen with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, carry a simulated casualty from a military ambulance into a Shock Trauma Platoon for treatment during a field training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26. As part of the training, several waves of simulated casualties continuously arrived on site and required immediate treatments to simulate the stress of combat.

Realistic simulation helps Navy corpsmen deal with stress

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – “Marine, do you know your name? Do you know where you are,” the corpsman asked with no response. “It’s okay, we’re here to take care of you.”

Surgeons, doctors, nurses and corpsmen with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, participated in a field training exercise here, Jan. 26.

“The focus of this training event is to successfully provide medical support to Marines and sailors in the field environment,” said Cmdr. Tuan Hoang, surgeon, officer in charge of field surgical team, 1st Med. Bn. “Basically we’re putting the team together and seeing how they work under pressure while operating the Shock Trauma Platoon and the Forward Resuscitative Surgical System.”

As part of the training, several waves of simulated casualties continuously arrived on site and required immediate treatment, ex-

plained Hoang, 42, from Chula Vista, Calif. Medical staffs were to identify the more critical cases to provide immediate response in the FRSS, as well as to divide the team properly to treat everyone.

“The team came together tremendously,” Hoang said. “They’re working as a team like a well oiled machine.”

To these men and women, looking for wounds and treating patients has become second nature as they’ve provided medical care to service members so often, explained Petty Officer 3rd Class Jared Nixon, corpsman, 1st Med. Bn.

As he observed his fellow caretakers providing aid to the simulated casualties while playing the role of a casualty himself, Nixon, 22, from Santa Cruz, Calif., said the stressful training environment is exactly what they needed to prepare for the upcoming deployment.

“It’s no surprise that they know how to treat the patients. The training simulates stress and that’s the

most important part of our job at this point,” said Nixon. “If we learn how to deal with that stress now, we’ll be much more successful in theatre as nothing will come as a surprise to us.”

Nixon not only helped his fellow service members train for deployment, he said he had also learned an important lesson.

“As I was laying there on the opposite side of the operating table, I learned how scary it would be,” he said. “Coming into a situation such as this where you have no control of where your life was going to go, and you’re completely depending on somebody else, it’s a scary thing. Knowing that these corpsmen were given great training and so full of confidence really helps put that feeling at ease. So I hope that a lot of the Marines here can take confidence out of this training as well, knowing that their corpsmen are doing a great job because this is a very realistic simulation.”

Hoang was thrilled with the result of the training exercise.



Surgeons, doctors and nurses with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conduct an operation on a simulated casualty during a field training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26.

“I’m impressed with the effort that everyone put forth during this training exercise,” Hoang said. “It is our job and our duty to take care of these guys and bring them home. Nothing can even come close to the feelings I get when my old patients come up to thank me and hug me. It is so great to see them back up and walking around again.”



Doctors, nurses and corpsmen with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provide medical care to a simulated casualty during a field training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 26. As part of the training, several waves of simulated casualties continuously arrived on site and required immediate treatments to stimulate stress.

Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Photos from around 1st MLG



Photo by Cpl. Tommy Huynh

(Above) Combat Logistics Battalion 11 Marines breach a doorway during a training event Jan. 23. The battalion provides logistics and services for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, currently deployed as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group. (Left) A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, assists his daughter with holding a static display of the M249 squad automatic weapon during a Jane Wayne Day hosted by Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 27.



Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin

Lt. Col. Michael Murchison, battalion commander, 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, speaks with the Marines and sailors after a 12-mile hike on Camp Pendleton, Calif. Jan. 27.