



AUG 29, 2014

The Convoy

DELIVERING QUALITY INFORMATION ON THE 1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP



WATER technicians keep Camp Dwyer afloat

LSE-14 Marine Engineer from Topeka aids in construction

AFGHANISTAN CLB-1 last Marine logistical combat unit to deploy for OEF

August

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On the Cover



A corpsman with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, transports a simulated wounded Marine as part of a mock casualty evacuation at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 6, 2014. The casualty evacuation was part of Large Scale Exercise 2014, formally being conducted from Aug. 8-14.

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Posted by Tabatha Hanton (7) · August 19

Congratulations to Maj. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese on his promotion today!

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1st Marine Logistics Group
Posted by Laura Grace Gauna (7) · August 19

Philippine Brig. Gen. Arthur Ang, presents Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese with a gift of appreciation at the closing ceremony of Non-lethal Weapons Executive Seminar (NOLES) 2014, August 16. NOLES 2014 was the first time the Philippines hosted the seminar.

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OPEN RANKS

Open Ranks Episode 3

1st Marine Logistics Group · 30 views

Published on Aug 2, 2014

1st Lt. Philip 7th Engineer Support Battalion Commander, answers the Marine's questions.

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POSTS AND RELIEFS — — THROU



(Above) Sergeant Maj. Brian D. Milton, outgoing Sergeant Major of Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, makes parting remarks during the HQ. Regt. post and relief ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., August 1, 2014. Sergeant Maj. Rafael Rodriguez now assumes the duties as the HQ. Regt. Sergeant Major.

(Below) Marines with Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, stand at attention for the playing of the National Anthem during the HQ. Regt. post and relief ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., August 1, 2014. Sergeant Maj. Brian D. Milton, outgoing HQ. Regt. Sergeant Major, passed command to Sgt. Maj. Rafael Rodriguez.



GHOUT MLG

Photos by Lance Cpl. Lauren Falk

Sergeant Maj. Jeffrey A. Young, Sergeant Major of Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, passes the Senior Noncommissioned Officer's Sword to Supply Battalion's Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Tiffany N. Harris, during the Supply Bn. post and relief ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 24, 2014.



CLB-1 last Marine logistical combat unit to deploy for OEF

Story and photos by:
Sgt. Jessica Ostroska



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 handed over responsibilities as the logistics combat element for Regional Command (Southwest) to Combat Logistics Battalion I during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Aug. 1, 2014.

This was the third deployment to Afghanistan for the unit based in Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, and the casing of CLB-7's colors signifies their Operation Enduring Freedom mission is now complete.

Combat Logistics Battalion 7's deployment to Afghanistan began during January 2014. Throughout their time deployed, the unit completed more than 20 combat logistics patrols and provided transportation support to 95 helicopter support team missions and 1,074 general support missions aboard camps Bastion and Leatherneck. They conducted 58 engineering missions and assisted in teaching warehousing operations and the reorganization of the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps Forward Supply Depot located on Camp Shorabak. Combat Logistics Battalion 7 also provided maintenance training and heavy equipment maintenance training courses to the Afghan National Army.

The Marines and sailors of the CLB-7 services companies completed 38 Warrior Express Service missions by distributing more than 3,636 tri-walls of mail, and providing over 172,000 meals to Forward Operating Bases Delaram II and Dwyer. The supply and maintenance Marines and sailors provided recovery support for 14 operations and seven immediate response team missions, and conducted 196 maintenance support team

missions throughout RC(SW) area of operations. Medical Company treated 3,770 patients aboard Camp Leatherneck and FOB Dwyer, and provided environmental health site assessments to outlying forward operating bases within RC(SW).

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company responded to 1,402 incident reports and destroyed materials totaling 15,125 pounds net explosive weight. They also supported 239 route clearance missions and support to 53 named operations. Combat Logistics Battalion 7 also supported numerous operations in support of RC(SW) to completely close or transfer four bases in northern Helmand Province, including the historic liftoff from Sangin district.

The CLB-7 Marines and sailors were responsible for maintaining more than \$231 million worth of equipment and closing out four coalition accounts in accordance with retrograde efforts. Because none of the coalition accounts included Marine Corps gear, Marines had to learn and understand the process for accounting, requisitioning, retrograding and closing accounts of theater-provided and coalition-provided equipment. The gear combined from the accounts was worth more than \$23 million. The unit also facilitated the turn-in of more than 600 containers, totaling more than \$42 million, in just two days.

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 fortunately lost no lives during their missions and operations in Afghanistan this deployment.

"I think the Marines and sailors performed very well, and I am really proud of them," said Lt. Col. Sid R. Welch, Commanding Officer, CLB-7, and native of Bellville, Texas. "Our motto here has been 'Enable the March.' We tell the Marines to be professional, be polite, find a way to say yes, and a way to support a unit because that

is how we win. They accomplished the mission, and they did it proficiently and safely."

The ceremony marks the start of CLB-I's third deployment to Afghanistan. The unit, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, is slated to assist in the closure of camps Bastion and Leatherneck. They will be the last unit to aid RC(SW) with tactical-level logistical support, closing out another chapter in Marine Corps history as the final LCE for RC(SW).

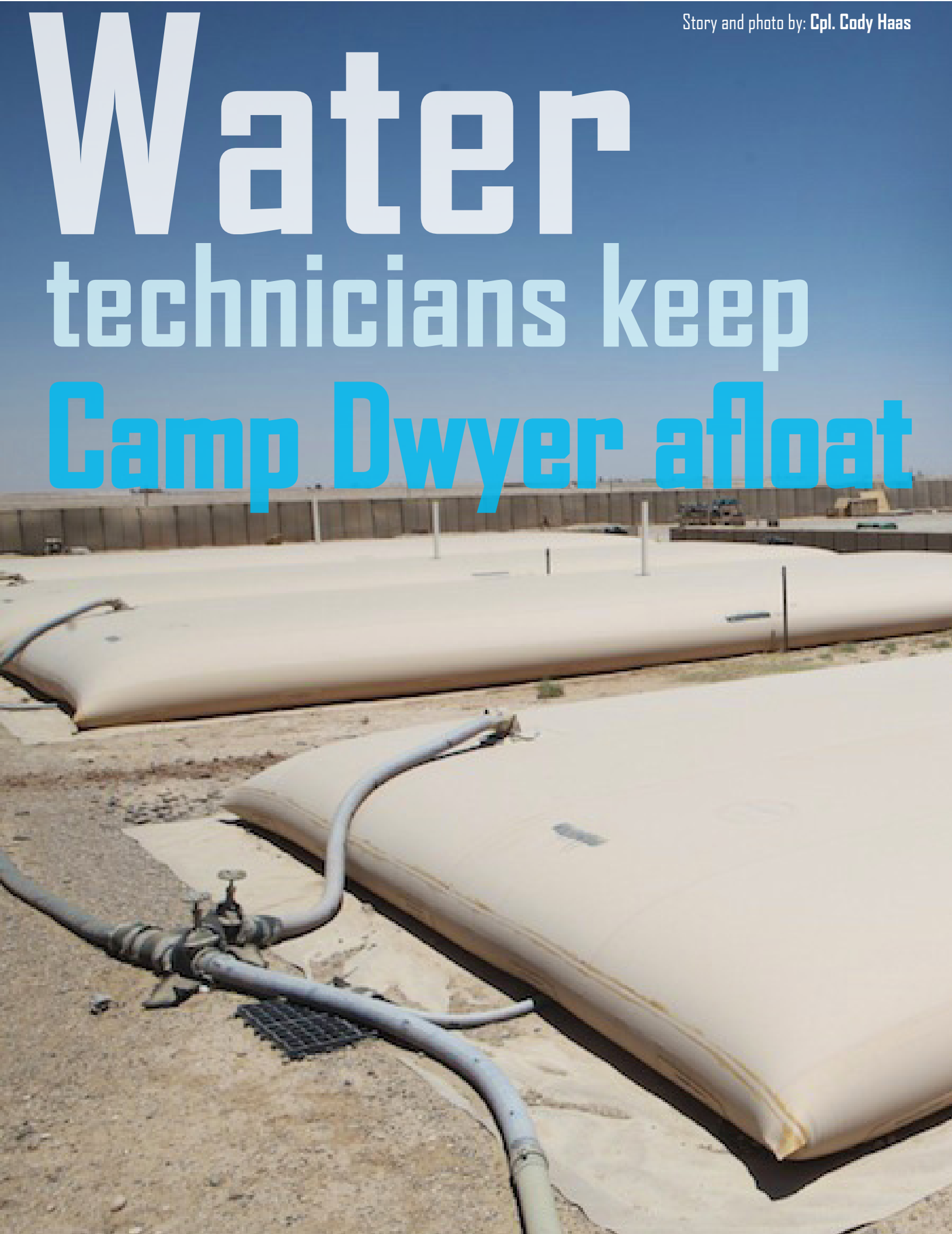
Combat Logistics Battalion I has a unique role and responsibility as the LCE for RC(SW). They are set up to maintain and sustain all units with ground and transportation support, explosive ordnance disposal, medical, disbursing and exchange services as well as postal, engineering, supply and maintenance services.

With retrograde and redeployment efforts underway, the mission of CLB-I versus that of CLB-7 has changed to focus more on the troops preparing to close down the Bastion-Leatherneck Complex as more responsibility is turned over to the Afghans.

"My goal is to ensure that we meet the commanding general's intent of achieving retrograde and redeployment with minimal risk, so I am going to finish what Lt. Col. Welch and his team started," said Lt. Col. Joon H. Um, Commanding Officer, CLB-I, and native of Harrington Park, New Jersey. "He talks about 'Enabling the March,' and (CLB-I) needs to finish the march. It is a privilege to be here, and to be finishing things during these last few months, it is truly an honor. This isn't a CLB-7 or CLB-I fight, it is a joint fight because we are interchangeable, under the same regiment. They started it, and we are going to finish it. We have some big shoes to fill that CLB-7 has left for us. And we will finish the march."



Marines and sailors with Regional Command (Southwest) salute in formation as the national anthem is played during a transfer of authority ceremony held for Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and CLB-I aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 1, 2014. CLB-7 was replaced by CLB-I as the last unit to aid RC(SW) with tactical-level logistical support.



Water technicians keep Camp Dwyer afloat

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — For service members deployed to the middle of a desert in Helmand province, Afghanistan, water is a valuable commodity. Troops depend on water for hydration, food preparation, showering and keeping vehicles and gear clean.

A small team of eight water support technician Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1 and Combat Logistics Battalion 7 are responsible for the supply of water needed by Camp Dwyer.

The Marines break up into groups and operate three separate points on base. One group will operate one of two well points, another group will operate a purification system and the final group of three Marines will operate a laundry facility, with groups alternating points every two weeks.

“Our mission is to provide water for all of the

facilities aboard Camp Dwyer,” said Staff Sgt. Douglas Labelle, the Staff Noncommissioned Officer In Charge for the water production site at Camp Dwyer. “Our Marines are well trained in order to work independently and make sure everything works and is checked over daily.”

Water support technician Marines produce approximately 1,500 gallons of purified water per hour. That is enough to adequately hydrate approximately 700 troops for one day, said Cpl. Marc-Anthony Diplacido, a water support technician with CLB-7.

“Every day we supply Camp Dwyer with 20,000 gallons of purified water and more than 30,000 gallons of potable water used for showers, laundry and tactical gear cleaning,” said Diplacido. “It is a very satisfying feeling knowing I am making a

difference and helping out Marines.”

The eight-man team of Marines continues to supply units on the base with clean water by working together and independently conducting daily inspections of systems, hoses and gear.

“Teamwork is essential,” said Labelle, a native of Rogers Park, Chicago. “If our equipment goes down, we have to rely heavily on each other to get everything up and running again. As young Marines, the corporals are developing and growing quickly into independent leaders. We are Marines; I expect no less than 110 percent from them as well as myself every day.”

Marines with CLB-1 deployed to Afghanistan from Camp Pendleton, California, in July. Marines with CLB-7 are scheduled to redeploy back to the States at the end of July after completing their six-month tour.



NOLES 2014 comes to a close Brig. Gen. Coglianesse attends ceremony

Story and photos by: Cpl. Erik Estrada



Philippine Brig. Gen. Arthur Ang presents U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianesse, Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group, with a gift of appreciation at the closing ceremony of Non-lethal Weapons Executive Seminar (NOLES) 2014, August 16. NOLES is an annual field-training exercise and leadership seminar sponsored by U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and hosted by various nations throughout the Asia-Pacific. This is the 13th iteration of NOLES with members from the AFP and Philippine National Police participating.

MAKATI CITY, Manila, Philippines – After 12 days of teaching and learning from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force and representatives from

20 nations, the Non-lethal Weapons Executive Seminar (NOLES) 2014 came to an end with the conclusion of the leadership seminar portion of the exercise August 16, 2014.

Completing the 13th iteration, NOLES 2014 was the first time the Philippines

hosted the seminar. NOLES is sponsored annually by U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, consisting of a field-training exercise for the first nine days and finishing with a demonstration of non-lethal weapons (NLW) and tactics learned throughout

training, and a three-day NLW seminar. The exercise promotes awareness and effective use of non-lethal weapons to maintain order in low-intensity conflicts or civil unrest.

“In a world where we are continually being challenged by threats and changes, it is critical we adapt to new techniques,” said Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese, Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Tactics learned here during the exercise consisted

of Mechanical Advantage Control Holds (MACH), Taser and Oleoresin Capsicum training, the firing of non-lethal munitions and a portion where the AFP and PNP taught the U.S. Marines tactics and martial arts native to the Philippines.

On the last day of the seminar, senior leaders were formed into groups, and given two different scenarios on situations where they could employ non-lethal tactics and weapons. Non-lethal tactics and weapons are tools that

give leaders more options to de-escalate situations such as civil disturbances, rescue missions, convoy operations or checkpoints and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations.

“I encourage you to do two things, the first is to take what you’ve seen and challenge your leaders and peers when you go back home,” said Coglianese. “The second thing I encourage you to do, and probably the most important, is to continue the great partnership you developed here.”



Brig. Gen. Coglianese, Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group, presents Philippine Brig. Gen. Arthur Ang with a gift of appreciation at the closing ceremony of Non-lethal Weapons Executive Seminar (NOLES) 2014, August 16. NOLES is an annual field-training exercise and leadership seminar sponsored by U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and hosted by various nations throughout the Asia-Pacific. This is the 13th iteration of NOLES with members from the AFP and Philippine National Police participating.

Topeka Marine aids in construction of LSE-14

Story and photo by:
Lance Cpl. Angel Serna





MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – On an uncomfortably hot day in the Mojave Desert, many service members participating in Large Scale Exercise 2014 prepare for the day to end, but one Marine decides it's the perfect weather to bring out his tools and some spare wood to create something from scraps of nothing.

Corporal Tanner Lechner, a Combat Engineer with Combat Service Support Company, 1st Brigade Headquarters Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, said he enjoys his time out in the field regardless of the weather because he gets to practice and improve his construction and creativity skills.

Before the Marine Corps, Lechner lived in Topeka, Kan., up to his early adulthood. Lechner said after high school, he wanted to take charge of his life and do something he enjoys.

His life-changing decision was inspired by his grandfather, who retired as a captain in the Marine Corps, Lechner said. His grandfather would tell him stories of his career. Those stories motivated him to the point he decided to join the Marine Corps in 2011.

"I picked combat engineer as my [Military Occupational Specialty] when I joined," said Lechner, now 21 and driven. "It wasn't my first choice, but I couldn't do reconnaissance because I was color blind. My recruiter mentioned to me, 'As a combat engineer, you'll get to build things and blow stuff up,' so I said, 'Yeah! Put me there.'"

After graduating recruit training and MOS school, Lechner said he moved on to the operational forces which gave him the opportunity to deploy and conduct his job.

"We made what [we] would call a 'triple nickel forty' out of cratering charges on a partially dry lake bed in the Philippines," said Lechner. "When this thing went off, it made this massive crater and all of the water that was underground came rushing in. It instantly filled with water and we were like, 'Hey, we made a big pond.'"

After realizing how much he enjoyed his job, Lechner said that one of his best decisions was joining the Marine Corps.

"My job is the best job in the Marine Corps," said Lechner. "Whether the ground needs to be blown to bits, a house needs to be repaired, or a simple plaque needs to be created, I could do it all."

Lechner added people often question their decision to enlist, but he said he was glad he joined because it helped him mature. That alone gave him an advantage over a lot of people he knows. It also gave him one of the strongest families that he'll ever have.

"Lechner is a good guy," said Quentin Sanders, also a Combat Engineer with the MEB. "We're like brothers because I've been with him since day one. That guy is a hard worker and he takes a lot of initiative."

Now at three years into his contract, Lechner is participating in LSE-14, a bilateral training exercise being conducted by 1st MEB.

The exercise is a tool used to build U.S. and Canadian forces' joint capabilities through live, simulated and constructive military training activities from Aug. 8-14 at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms.

Lechner said he supports the MEB by building the simplest of things that aid with the setup of the camp.

"Pretty much anything wooden you see out here, we made it," said Lechner. "We made the billboards in the command operations center, the benches and tables in the shower rooms and the little tables next to the [restrooms] that hold hand sanitizer. We build those things that help you out, and it's hardly noticeable, but it's those little things that count."

Lechner said he enjoys the work he is tasked with during the exercise because it allows more room for creativity and it's different than a typical work day on Camp Pendleton.

"Building things [during LSE 14] can be fun," said Lechner. "It's also good practice for when I get out of the Marines."

Lechner said he plans on making a career out of construction after his enlistment because he likes his job so much.

"After I get out of the Marine Corps, I'm going to start some college classes and join an apprenticeship program," said Lechner. "I want to become a journeyman and then work my way to the top from there."

Lechner said he wants to own his own construction company and to buy and rebuild older houses. After the restoration process, he said he hopes he can rent his homes out then eventually live off that money and retire at an early age.

Lechner said he will continue doing what he loves, whether building benches and tables at Marine Corps exercises, or rebuilding homes and easing into retirement. Either way, he said he is grateful to have honed his craft in service to the country.



NAVY CORPSMEN

PRACTICE TREATING COMBAT CASUALTIES AT LSE-14



Photos by: **Lance Cpl. Caitlin Bevel**



Sailors with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, assess a role-playing patient for care as part of a simulated casualty evacuation at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 6, 2014. The casualty evacuation was part of LSE-14, conducted from Aug. 8-14.



TWENTYNINE PALMS

A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, follows the standard operating procedure to warn an incoming truck to halt, during Exercise Backlog aboard Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., August 7, 2014.



CLB-5 MARINES

re-familiarize themselves with convoys

Story by: I MEF Public Affairs

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistic Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, revisited the fundamentals of convoy operations, while learning that there is more to combat than just fighting during Exercise Backlog aboard Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., August 7, 2014.

This exercise was the culminating event of a 30-day integrated training exercise in which Marines were instructed in multiple types of convoys and standard operating procedures for unfamiliar scenarios.

"This training really helped the Marines embrace the procedures and

understand what to really expect in certain scenarios," said Cpl. Garrett Kastl, a Security Element Leader with CLB-5.

During the training, the Marines interacted with role-players and faced a scenario where they needed to remove, replenish and return the village's water tank without making it seem like they were only removing it. The role-players simulated possible complications the Marines may see while supplying an actual civilian populace.

"We are often expected to help and support the local populace," said Kastl. "We have to approach every situation with a cool head. Often times the populace reacts to you. If we are seen getting aggravated, then often times, the people

react to this negatively. This training helped us assess the situation and react accordingly."

Along with conducting combat operations, Marines also provide humanitarian assistance during natural disasters and when countries are in need. Marines are often sent to stand security, and provide medical aid, food and water, and other relief efforts.

"This training is important for the Marines to understand because this can be a real world situation," said 1st Lt. Asia Pastor, the Assistant Operation Officer with CLB-5. "Marines are trained to always be prepared and maintain an aggressive stance for deterrence purposes and for fighting enemy combatants."

The ITX and the Backlog allows



Left: A Marine evaluator attached to Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistic Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, grades a squad of Marines during Exercise Backlog aboard Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., August 7, 2014. This exercise was the culminating event of a 30-day integrated training exercise in which Marines were instructed in multiple types of convoys and standard operating procedures for unfamiliar scenarios.

Right: Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistic Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, set up a casualty evacuation site as a hospital corpsman evaluates the simulated wounded during Exercise Backlog.

Photos by: Lance Cpl. Ashton Buckingham

the Marines of the battalion to train and be evaluated on their performance as a unit. This tells the unit where they are the strongest and what needs more work.

"We use a building block form of teaching," said Pastor. "From the beginning, we established our team leaders and gunners, then as we progress and add different scenarios the teams have

"We started out kind of rough, but that's what it's all about - smoothing out all those rough edges. My favorite thing is watching these Marines get better at what they are doing." – Cpl. Garrett Kastl

been able to learn from each other and their capabilities. The Backlog is just a culminating scenario of everything they

have learned in the past 30 days."

Kastl went on to explain how he enjoyed seeing the improvement in the Marines.

"We started out kind of rough," said Kastl. "But that's what it's all about – smoothing out all those rough edges.

My favorite thing is watching these Marines get better at what they are doing."



Not all hellfire and cordon wires:

1st Dental Bn. sailor balances military discipline and job proficiency to succeed in career

Story and photos by: Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez

The military is not all hellfire and cordon wires. As a Dental Technician for 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Austin balances military bearing and discipline with an approachable personality, necessary for building rapport with patients, and getting the job done.

“I enjoy my job a lot,” said Austin, a native of Barrington, N.J. “I enjoy helping both the doctors and the patients. Assisting the doctors

teaches me a lot about dental procedures. It’s also fulfilling to build good rapport with the patients at 1st Dental Battalion so they understand what we’re doing.”

Dental technicians provide much needed assistance to dentists by setting up and maintaining equipment, putting the patients at ease, preparing them for treatment and performing X-ray scans and administrative tasks.

“As dental technicians, we need to take care of patients’ needs,” said Austin. “We work hand-in-hand with

the dentists for eight hours a day to provide those needs and maintain combat readiness.”

Combat readiness is essential for Marines and sailors. Dental issues, if left untreated, may end up requiring immediate medical attention, taking service members out of training or the fight.

First Dental Bn. sailors may be called upon to deploy at any time as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force. As a result, they strive to maintain military bearing and discipline.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Austin, a Dental Technician with 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, organizes his team's tasks at the start of the day at the 13 Area Dental Clinic, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 23, 2014. Dental technicians provide much needed assistance to dentists by setting up and maintaining equipment, putting the patients at ease, preparing them for treatment and performing X-ray scans and administrative tasks. "As dental technicians, we need to take care of patients' needs," said Austin.

"You have to find a good balance," added Austin. "For some people it takes a while, and they bring the boot camp mentality to the treatment room. That can come off as overbearing to some patients, and it makes it hard for them to relax. It's best to calm the patient down because a dental treatment can be stressful."

With his balanced mindset, Austin has gained more and more responsibility throughout his six-year career. Originally starting in the 'root canal' department of the 13 Area Dental Clinic, he now works with a team of three sailors and nine civilians, ensuring day-to-day work in the clinic is conducted efficiently.

"He's personable and professional," said Chief Petty Officer Thomas Riggs, lead petty officer at the 13 Area Dental Clinic.

"He works very well with civilians, and we have a number of civilian staff. He's very attentive to the needs of his patients and his co-workers alike. He has done a lot for the daily functions of the clinic," added Riggs, who considers Austin one of the best and brightest.

Despite receiving recognition from his superiors, Austin still credits his successes to his team and their emphasis on prioritizing their patients.

"My team is very proactive in a way, and being in a job with such a high technical ceiling, it's

important for us to focus on job proficiency and accomplishing the mission," said Austin.

Austin plans to bring his balance of bearing, discipline and approachability to the civilian world as a forensics specialist, having already studied prerequisite courses from the University of Phoenix. For now, Austin is focused on leading his team to excel in their careers.

"I believe respect is one of the most important aspects of leadership," said Austin. "You have to balance being a leader as a non-commissioned officer and being strict at times, but you also need to treat them with respect, no matter who they are."



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

Hungry *for* Success

Food service specialist becomes 'people person' while
on the job





Corporal Clifton McReynolds, food service specialist, Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, poses for a photograph aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 29, 2014.

Growing up, Cpl. Clifton McReynolds, Food Service Specialist, Food Service Company, Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, never imagined he would join the military. McReynolds was raised as the only child in a strict household in the small city of Wilcox, Ariz., which, according to McReynolds, peaks at around 10,000 people in the winter when it becomes a get-away for those looking to escape cold weather.

“Living with all the rules and restrictions as a kid, I ended up turning into a bit of a wild child when I was living on my own after high school,” said McReynolds, recalling why he joined the Marine Corps. “I wasn’t very mature after high

school and I heard about the camaraderie in the Corps. I also heard about opportunities to meet interesting people, travel the world and become more mature.”

Upon his enlistment, the 22-year-old was told he would be a food service specialist. He wasn’t very fond of his job at first, but he found a passion for working with people and now thrives in a job which enables him to serve and converse with hundreds of Marines daily.

“You never know if someone might be having a bad day, so I always try to ‘serve happiness with a smile’,” said McReynolds, who takes great pride in his work, especially when it is his responsibility to prepare the food. His favorite dish is veal with a gravy sauce and vegetables that he learned to prepare while serving in Okinawa, Japan.

One of McReynolds' favorite parts of his job is when a Marine comes back through the line to compliment one of the dishes he prepared.

"I remember serving chow to a colonel and a sergeant major on a day when I cooked the country fried steak," said McReynolds, recalling one of his favorite moments in his military career. "I recommended the steak to them, saying it would be better than what their mother makes, and the sergeant major came back and said 'it wasn't better than what my mother makes but it was damn good.'"

As McReynolds' career in the Corps began, he fell under the leadership and supervision of his 'most influential role model' as a private first class.

"My first impression of him was that he was obedient," said former Sgt. Nathan Toon, who was a chief cook at Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, in Okinawa, Japan, at the time. "Anything we asked of him was no problem. He struck me as a very 'good-to-go' guy."

McReynolds served under Toon for about 13 months, during which, he developed exceptional leadership traits under Toon's guidance. Eventually, McReynolds' hard work paid off and he was designated chief cook.

"There was one time when he was chief cook for his platoon and had only one Marine working with him to prepare and serve the chow," said Toon, a native of Washburn, Mo., as he recalled a time when McReynolds demonstrated his exceptional leadership and dependability. "Although it was a junior Marine working with him, McReynolds told the Marine to take a break while he continued working to ensure business in the chow hall was conducted professionally and efficiently."

McReynolds is grateful for the opportunities he had to serve his fellow Marines and lead them in several countries to include Thailand, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. His current contract is slated to expire in October, 2014, after which, he will begin his 10-year plan to earn a degree in biogenetic engineering.

"There is just something about genes, the very core of how a person acts; it fascinates me," said McReynolds, who plans to also earn his bartending license within the next four years to help pay for his education.

McReynolds is thankful for his experience serving in the Marine Corps as he prepares for a new beginning at the University of Arizona.

"The camaraderie of the Corps and all the interesting people I've encountered will be sorely missed," said McReynolds. "I definitely needed this in my life. The discipline and the maturity I gained during my service set me up for future success as I start a new chapter in my life."



Corporal Clifton McReynolds, Food Service Specialist, Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, serves a Marine Salisbury steak and mashed potatoes with gravy at the 14-area chow hall aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 22, 2014. The 22-year old was not excited to be a food service specialist at first, but he found a passion for working with people and now thrives in a job which enables him to serve and converse with hundreds of Marines daily.

VOICES OF THE GROUP

Voices of the Group is a monthly interview that features 1st MLG Marines and sailors

Q

&A

With Master GySgt. Johnny Mendez

Story and photos by: Sgt. Sarah Fiocco

Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnny Mendez, Operations Chief and the Senior Enlisted in his military occupational specialty, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, of Las Cruces, N.M., is coming up on his 25th year in the Marine Corps. He takes great pride in his job as a combat engineer and loves to be surrounded by Marines. From his days as a drill instructor to his present responsibility as the MOS's most senior Marine Mendez has maintained his honor and believes it's every Marine's duty to do the same.

Q: What made you want to join?

A: Throughout high school I knew I wanted to take it on, because I used to sit and look at my dad's albums as a kid from when he was in 82nd Airborne. I wanted to try to follow in his footsteps, but I also wanted to figure out how to outdo him. So, the Marines just caught my eye.

Q: Looking back, would you have thought you would have stayed in the Corps for this long?

A: No way. I didn't even think about it. The first time I was about to re-enlist, I went home to New Mexico, and I talked to my old man. After I talked to my father and he said if you're going to do this, then you have to outdo me. So I sat down and thought to myself, 'How am I going to outdo him?' So, I told him 'Alright dad, you got a deal. I'll outdo you.' So here we are, going on 25 years later, I outdid him.

Q: What's been the most memorable experience so far in your career?

A: I think my most memorable experience was going down to the drill field as a corporal. It sticks out in my mind because of all the amazing support I had from my noncommissioned officers and staff noncommissioned officers. They fought to keep me in the Corps. At that time, it was just like it is now. Young sergeants and young corporals were competing to hold their positions in the Corps. And that's where I was during

that time. I was competing to preserve my spot as a young corporal. I couldn't do anything to improve my cutting score, and I had tried to go to the drill field five times. Finally, on the fifth try, thanks to my NCOs and SNCOs, I got in.

Q: Wasn't going to the drill field as a corporal almost unheard of?

A: It was. I was one of two. There was another combat engineer corporal in the class with me. It was an extreme experience because of the fact that you were the two junior guys in a drill instructor class with a lot of sergeants and SNCOs. It was motivating. It was a true honor and a growing experience, because I never thought I would share a class with a lot of senior-enlisted guys. I was the most junior out of the entire class, and the Marine who later became my mentor throughout my career was the senior guy in the class. He was a staff sergeant at the time, but he later took the master sergeant route instead of the first sergeant route when the time came. Seeing him make that choice and with his guidance, I knew I wanted to take that same route.

Q: What was so appealing to you about the master sergeant path?

A: Just watching the few master sergeants work as an expert in their MOSs ... everyone knows that their technical expertise is reliable, and I wanted to be a part of that. There's something about being one of 21 in the entire Marine

Corps. I never thought I would make it this far or this high in the rank structure. To make it that far, that's what I wanted to be a part of. I wanted to shoot for the stars.

Q: What did you like most about being on the drill field?

A: It was a great feeling to know you were making a difference. No matter where you were, what position you were at, you were making a difference. Having parents come up to you and thank you on graduation was an amazing feeling. I did my quota in the 'House of Knowledge,' so I was teaching series upon series of recruits and sharing my knowledge with the Corps' future Marines. I was helping to mold them into Marines. You have the first effect on their career. I never forgot my drill instructors. As a matter of fact, my senior drill instructor promoted me to staff sergeant. That's the kind of impact he had on me.

Q: MOS-wise, what has been the most memorable experience for you?

A: Taking my last unit, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Charlie Company, 1st Platoon, out to combat was probably my most memorable. We became a very tight-knit group. That year, we were the only platoon to make it back whole. I sat side-by-side with lance corporals and privates first class. Rank didn't really matter to us. We went through hell and back together. I will never forget that. We

were in Fallujah in 2006 together. It was nice to engage with my junior Marines in an environment like that. That's the one thing I advise to my fellow senior enlisted – to never forget where they came from. Especially being a platoon sergeant like I was. We thrive off the needs of the Marines. I'm not here for me. I'm here for them.

Q: What was that deployment like?

A: We did dismounts, route clearances and we were making patrol bases in the middle of a 'hornets' nest.' It was dangerous. As combat engineers, we were had to go reinforce positions, sometimes making new positions in the middle of an enemy territory. A lot of the times while we were doing that, we were getting shot at, we were getting mortared or we were getting into a firefight. It brought us together by the end. We became a band of brothers.

At the time it was very difficult. You were communicating with the outside grunt units. You expect them to be providing security and to have your back, but within that security bubble, you establish your own security. Then in the midst of all that, you're building a patrol base with the materials around

you. You're doing this construction while at the same time, having to engage the enemy. It is very adrenaline filled and intense. You have to rely on every Marine knowing their job. You have to rely on your NCOs and your junior Marines being adequately trained for that situation. That particular group of Marines was outstanding. They did everything as I expected them to and then some. One time we were building a structure and we were receiving enemy fire on and off for 30 hours. It was pretty intense.

Q: What makes your MOS vital to mission accomplishment?

A: I think it's very important to have combat engineers. It's a very important portion of our operations. We're reinforcing the ability to survive in our positions if under attack; we sweep for improvised explosive devices and land mines in order for Marines to travel safely. Without engineers, it would become a difficult fight. Our reinforcements keep Marines alive.

Q: What is one piece of advice you think junior Marines should know?

A: My advice to any Marines is to carry with them a sense of honor. It's not just

a uniform. I tell my Marines that they're all heroes, because that's what comes to mind when the public sees our uniform. They automatically see a hero. It's our job to uphold that honor and maintain our pride as Marines. It's also having the honor to talk to your Marines. It takes five minutes to change someone's life. I try to get out of my office every day to talk to my Marines, even if it's just for five minutes, it might make a difference. It might give a Marine that extra bit of motivation they needed or it may even give that Marine the opportunity to come forward and talk about something they need to get off their chest. It's important to maintain that unit cohesion and sense of family within the ranks of the Marine Corps.

Q: What would you say to new NCOs who are trying to develop their own leadership style?

A: You gather knowledge from everyone. You see the way different people lead, and you take a little from every leadership style to create and mold your own. Leadership isn't something that's always solid, it's a flexible thing. People are always adding characteristics to their leadership style that make it better or taking away the ones that don't.



AROUND THE GROUP

Every Thursday \$1 Bowling Special:

Every Thursday \$1.00 per game/\$1.00 shoe rental - and Snack Bar \$1 Specials are available from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. at Bldg. 1339, Main-side Area . This event is open to the public Monday through Thursday: 9am-10pm, Fri: 9am-Midnight, Sat: 9am-11pm and Sun: 10am-6pm. For more information, call (760) 725-5945.

SEPT 24:

CG's Cup Combat Water Polo:

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the 13 Area Pool. Combat water polo is a 7 vs. 7 tournament, which will be played in the shallow end of the pool. Cammies and boots are mandatory. Players do not need to know how to swim but should be comfortable in water. Pendleton Cup Points are awarded for this competition. This competition is for active duty military aboard Camp Pendleton. There is no entry fee.

For more information visit, <http://www.mccscp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Athletics-CG-Cup-Combat-Water-Polo-2014.pdf>.

OCT 4:

Toujours Fidele - Tour de Camp Pendleton

The Howitzer 100 Mile course starts at Camp San Mateo and heads South on Basilone Road. There is a lunch stop at the corner of Las Pulgas and Basilone Road for a pit stop at your leisure. You will then Head North on Basilone and return to Camp San Mateo THIS IS NOT A CLOSED COURSE-SHARE THE ROAD AND RIDE SAFELY. RULES OF THE ROAD WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

For more information about the different courses available, visit mccs.camppendleton.com



PARTING SHOT

By Sgt. Sarah Fiocco

A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, 1st Marine Logistics Group communicates his visual on an MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, lifting an M777A2 Howitzer during a Helicopter Support Team exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 22, 2014.