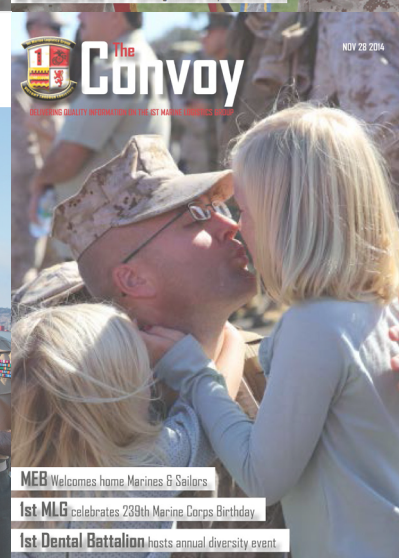
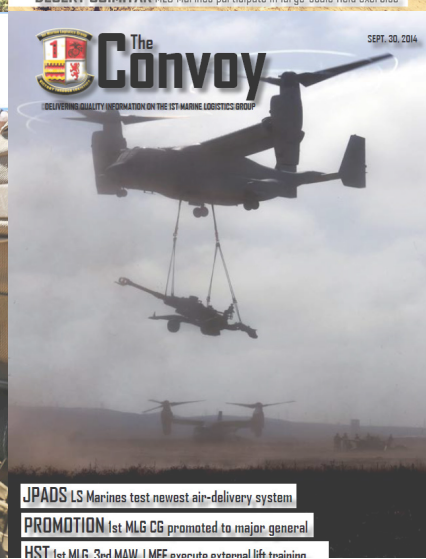
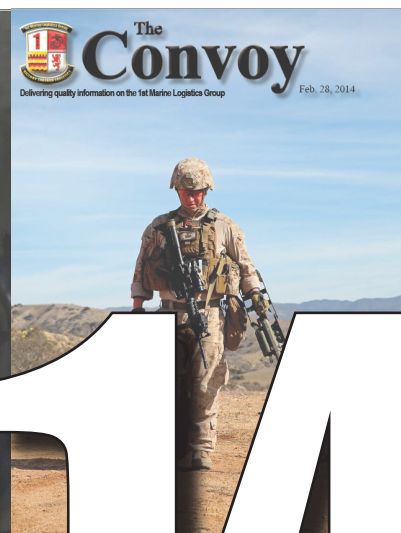




DEC 26, 2014

The Convoy

DELIVERING QUALITY INFORMATION ON THE 1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP



2014

A year in review

December

A Year in Review

4. Water techs supply deployed Marines
8. Navy Lt. runs Boston Marathon
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1st Marine Logistics Group
added 2 new photos.

Saturday at 10:21 AM •

Today we would like to remember the life of Major Megan Malia Leilani McClung (April 14, 1972–December 6, 2006). She was the first female United States Marine Corps officer killed in combat during the Iraq War. Major McClung was serving as a public affairs officer in Al Anba... [Continue Reading](#)



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
1st Lt. Thomas Gray

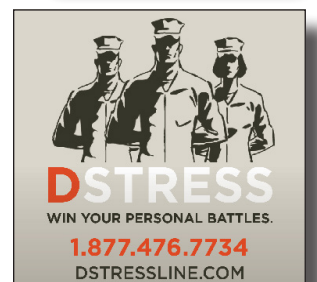
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2014

1st MLG DEPLOYED

WATER TECHS KEEP
DWYER AFLOAT

Story and photos by Cpl. Cody Haas

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 technicians with Combat Logistics Battalion 1 and Combat Logistics Battalion 7 are responsible for the supply of water needed to support Camp Dwyer.

The Marines break up into groups and operate three separate points on base. One group operates one of two well points, another group operates a purification system and the final group of three Marines operates 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.”

These 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 Technician with CLB-7.

“Every day we supply Camp Dwyer with 20,000 gallons of purified water and

(Right) Corporal Marc-Anthony Diplacido, a Water Support Technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, monitors a water pump system during a daily inspection aboard Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 21, 2014. Water Support Technician Marines produce approximately 50,000 gallons of water each day to support coalition forces stationed aboard Camp Dwyer.



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 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, Calif., in July.

Marines with CLB-7 redeployed back to the States at the end of July after completing their six-month tour.

UPDATE:
Both CLB-1 and CLB-7
Marines redeployed state
side since the initial
release of this story.

(Left) Corporal Marc-Anthony Diplacido, a Water Support Technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, opens a valve to a water bladder during a daily inspection aboard Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 21, 2014. Water Support Technician Marines produce approximately 50,000 gallons of water each day to support coalition forces stationed aboard Camp Dwyer.

Navy Lt. runs 2014 BOSTON MARATHON as anniversary of bombing passes



"I think the day of the marathon it's going to be almost a celebration of how people get through something like [the bombing]. It fuels our fire and our drive to run."

- Navy Lt. Traci Vander Molen

Story and photos by Sgt. Sarah Fiocco

Last April, more than 5,600 athletes ran the Boston Marathon unaware that two bombs would detonate, killing three people and injuring more than 260 others – some so severely that they would never run again.

For many, that experience would convince them to never run a marathon again, but not for Navy Lt. Traci Vander Molen, Emergency Trauma Nurse, 1st Marine Logistics Group Headquarters. This tragic event evoked such emotion in her that it became the driving force behind her decision to take part in the 26.2-mile trek.

“When people do things like that bombing, it makes me angry. It makes me want to run harder and faster,” said the 31-year old Orange City, Iowa, native. “It’s about us persevering and not letting horrible acts like that, that are meant to terrorize us, cause us to shy away from [something we love].”

While serving aboard the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit at the time of the bombing, Traci was already training for her second marathon in South Dakota that she runs with her sister, Tonya Vander Molen. Tonya spoke with her sister shortly after the bombing and planted the seed in Traci’s mind to participate in this year’s Boston Marathon.

“When the bombing happened, my younger sister challenged me to not only qualify, but to go and run it,” recalled Traci. “Once she said that, it was on.”

Tonya, felt it was important for her sister to be able to say she ran the Boston Marathon the year after the bombing. Being very competitive she knew Traci wouldn’t pass up the opportunity to pay tribute to the city of Boston, the marathon organizers and participants, and all the supporters.

“She’s extremely dedicated and she’s been training since she qualified in June. She’s also very competitive, so I think being surrounded by so many talented runners will make her move a lot faster,” said Tonya, who has always admired her sister’s abilities. “I’m so proud. I’m taking off work on Monday morning to have a little viewing party of the live coverage. She’s been running since we were little kids, and Boston is kind of the ultimate goal for amateur runners. When else can a nurse run against Olympians?”

Throughout her deployment, Traci continued to run almost daily in preparation for her qualifying

marathon. She dedicated all of her down time on the boat to training, eventually pushing herself past her own expectations.

“When I crossed the finish line and saw my time, I was very surprised that I actually qualified,” said Traci. “It was very hard. It really does take a lot of work.”

Traci came in at 3:31:00, beating the required 3:35:00-run time for her age group to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

It may seem like Traci has the natural ability to run at that kind of pace, but years of persistent practice have turned her into the runner she is today. This sport turned passion long before she joined the military. Throughout high school, she found peace in running cross country.

“There was just something extra special about going out and logging all those miles. It was nice to run out in the countryside of Iowa,” said Traci. “There’s just something very freeing about running like that.”

It wasn’t long after she began cross country that her true talent for running long distance became evident. She attributes a lot of her success to coming from a very active family.

“Doing well in cross country was always important to her,” said Ken Vander Molen, her father. “She’d get in the car and we’d take her 10 miles outside of town in the Iowa farmland and just dump her on the side of the road, and she would run all the way home.”

Whenever Ken would attend his daughter’s cross country meets, he would always yell to her “fortes fortuna adiuvat,” during the race, which in Latin, translates to “fortune favors the bold.” These words of encouragement always helped Traci during her races and he hopes they will serve as motivation during the Boston Marathon.

“She gives anything she does 110 percent,” said Ken. “She’s a tough kid. I can’t wait to see how she does. She’s going to make herself proud – I’m already proud of her.”

Now, less than a week out from race day, Traci is still pounding pavement to prepare, and with every step, she is determined to demonstrate her personal perseverance alongside her fellow runners.

“I think the day of the marathon it’s going to be almost a celebration of how people get through something like [the bombing],” she said. “It fuels our fire and our drive to run.”

Navy Lt. Traci Vander Molen, Emergency Trauma Nurse, 1st Marine Logistics Group Headquarters, runs along the Lake O’Neil path aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 15, 2014, in preparation for the Boston Marathon, April 21, 2014. The bombing during last year’s marathon inspired Traci to participate in this year’s run. Traci said she is determined to run alongside her fellow racers to prove that acts of terrorism will not cause them to shy away from something they love.

At the finish:

Traci finished the marathon with the time of 4:03:00, stating that it was a great experience and that she will continue to push herself.

SPMAGTF-ASEAN

keeps tip of spear sharp en route to Hawaii



MV-22B Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 conduct amphibious warfare certification training by practicing landing and takeoff procedures on amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD-23) as part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force ASEAN, March 19, 2014. SPMAGTF-ASEAN is en route to Hawaii to display the MAGTF's humanitarian capabilities. During this time, the Marines are conducting basic combat skills training and preventative maintenance, improving their abilities to overcome challenges in an expeditionary environment.

Story and photos by Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez

PACIFIC OCEAN — Rounds from the M240B light machine gun ripped across the air as they perforated targets afloat. As waves rocked the ship, the Marine struggled to control the weapon system, but he managed to stay on his target. The weapon churned out smoke and spent casings before running dry. The Marine then deftly cleared the weapon and stepped down, letting the next Marine employ it.

Shooting with the M240B was just one of the many training exercises conducted by the Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force, Association of South East Asian Nations, I Marine Expeditionary Force, aboard amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23) March 24, 2014.

The Marines continuously train with different weapons systems, refreshing basic infantryman skills and practicing martial arts in addition to maintaining and operating equipment specific to their jobs while on their way to Hawaii to display the MAGTF's humanitarian capabilities.

"We have roughly eight days from San Diego to Hawaii, so we knew the Marines had time to conduct basic Marine combat skills training in addition to performing maintenance on their vehicles and completing training requirements," said Capt. David Michael Phillips, Operations Officer with SPMAGTF-ASEAN.

The training provided valuable experience to the officers and staff with regard to conducting exercises with their Navy counterparts.

"In an expeditionary environment, we have to be ready in a moment's notice," said Phillips, a native of Gloucester, Va. "Doing this sustainment training on a regular basis, we learn how the ship operates, we learn the key billets from the Navy and we learn who to coordinate with, directly, in order to promptly accomplish the mission."

The training exercises are being conducted by units from different parts of 1st Marine Logistics Group, including 1st Maintenance Battalion, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 and Headquarters Regiment.

"We trained approximately 60 Marines to operate the M240B light machine gun," said Sgt. Eric T. Williams, Chief Instructor with the Combat Skills Training unit detachment, Logistics Combat Element, SPMAGTF-ASEAN. "It's good for every Marine to be proficient with different weapons systems."

Firing this powerful weapon on unsteady ground forced shooters to focus on every marksmanship fundamental in order to hit their target.

"The ship wasn't stable, rocking back and forth, and our shooters were from different units and different experience levels, so

safety was our primary concern," said Williams, a native of Mullins, S.C. "But it's important to train with the weapons, no matter where you are, because you never know what might happen in an expeditionary environment."

As the chief instructor for the CST detachment with SPMAGTF-ASEAN, Williams and his team ensure Marines are proficient in using the M240B, the M-16 service rifle and the M-9 service pistol.

Elsewhere, aboard the ship, Marines and Sailors continued to conduct preventative maintenance on aircraft and engineering equipment. One example is Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161, whose personnel are keeping the MV-22B Ospreys well maintained for the duration of the trip to Hawaii.

"The Marines of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 are responsible for providing quality, mission-capable aircraft for the MAGTF," said Staff Sgt. Brandon Griffith, Staff Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge with VMM-161, SPMAGTF-ASEAN. "Anytime these aircraft leave the deck with crew on board, lives are at stake. It's important to ensure maintenance is done effectively so we can keep the crew safe and accomplish the mission."

Prior to leaving for Hawaii, Osprey pilots with VMM-161 and AH-1W Super Cobra pilots with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303 also conducted amphibious warfare certification training by doing landing and takeoff procedures on the USS Anchorage.

The training is important for pilots, said Griffith, as landing and maneuvering on an unstable platform such as a ship is more difficult to do



Marines and Sailors with 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, arrive in San Diego and prepare to depart on the amphibious transport dock ship, USS Anchorage (LPD-23) while part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-ASEAN, March 18, 2014. The Marines and Sailors will conduct different combat exercises while on their way to Hawaii to display the MAGTF's humanitarian capabilities.

than on land.

All this training is crucial for the Aviation Combat Element, as it provides the MAGTF's assets with added reach and mobility.

"[The ACE] allows transportation of troops and cargo in harsh combat environments," said Griffith, of Barberton, Ohio. "We can perform resupply missions and allow the Ground Combat Element to go on long-range raids, making it an important asset of force projection for the MAGTF."

At the end of the day, whether they are refreshing basic combat skills or conducting maintenance and completing training requirements, the Marines of SPMAGTF-ASEAN stay vigilant in making sure they are ready for the challenges they might face as one of America's premier forces in readiness.

Ohio Marine receives



Purple Heart

Story and photos by Cpl. Timothy Childers



Lance Cpl. Gabriel R. Gehr, Electrical Equipment System Technician with Utilities Platoon, Engineer Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, poses with his wife, Kaitlyn, after receiving the Purple Heart aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 5, 2014. More than a year earlier on Nov. 20, 2013, Gehr sustained shrapnel injuries from an anti-tank rocket while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Standing in a motor transportation lot, with his wife and fellow Marines, Lance Cpl. Gabriel R. Gehr, received the Purple Heart aboard Camp Pendleton, May 5, 2014. More than a year earlier on Nov. 20, 2013, Gehr sustained shrapnel injuries from an anti-tank rocket while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the deployment, Gehr worked alongside Georgian troops to retrograde equipment from Afghanistan. It was during a routine working-party, putting up canvas to conceal tents, when the rocket struck next to him. He sustained multiple wounds on the left side of his body and was medically evacuated.

Gabriel is now in California with his wife, Kaitlyn, and works as an Electrical Equipment System Technician with Utilities Platoon, Engineer Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

“My wife is with me and I’m being awarded something [roughly] fifty thousand Marines received during [Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom],” said Gehr, a 21-year-old native of Delphos, Ohio. “I’m just one of those [awardees] that represent the ones who made it.”

Although Gabriel was modest when it came to the ceremony, his wife felt pride as she recalled receiving his first phone call.

“He called me from the hospital telling me he was injured. I was worried,” said Kaitlyn, who is also from Delphos. “Today was my first time in any kind of

military ceremony. I’m very proud of him, not everyone gets to do this every day.”

“She started asking me on the phone, who, what, when and why, but I couldn’t give her an answer,” said Gabriel. “It’s something no husband wants to do to their wife, that’s for sure.”

At his ceremony, then, Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese, commanding general, 1st MLG, pinned the medal on Gehr and spoke about the antiquity of the award, dating back to the Revolutionary War.

“I met [Coglianese] at [Navy Medical Center San Diego],” said Gehr. “He came to see me because I was one of his Marines. It was good to see him again and he gave me some of the history of the Purple Heart.”

Gabriel is no longer at the hospital, but continues to take physical therapy. Although he is not fully recovered, he is able to walk unaided and is working towards being able to run again.

“It’s challenging being back from Afghanistan,” said Gehr. “I’ve underwent a lot of physical therapy and medical appointments. I’d like to be back to normal, physically being able to do what I used to be capable of.”

Gehr plans to become a drill instructor when he is ready and is also thinking of becoming a commissioned officer later down the road.

“[Marines] are always taken care of,” said Gehr. “We’re always the few and the proud and motivated to do what’s right. You don’t find that out in the world too often.”

Bulk Fuel Co. supports fight from ship to shore





Marines with 2nd Platoon, Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, practice inserting a basset pump into the ocean during a set-up of the Amphibious Assault Fuel System aboard Camp Pendleton, April 3, 2014. The AAFS allows for the receiving, storage, and distribution of 1.3-million gallons of fuel. This system uses a five-mile collapsible hose system to transport the fuel from a ship at sea to the units on shore. The basset pump would connect to the fuel hose from a ship at sea, and ensure that only fuel is in the hose before it reaches the pump onshore. The entire system consists of a vast layout of 33 fuel bladders, each holding 20,000 to 50,000 gallons of fuel.



Left: Heavy equipment operators with Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, build earth-berms in the early stages of constructing an Amphibious Assault Fuel System, Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 2, 2014. The AAFS allows for the receiving, storage, and distribution of 1.3-million gallons of fuel. The system consists of a vast layout of 33 fuel bladders, each holding 20,000 to 50,000 gallons of fuel, placed inside six-foot tall earth berms, as a safety measure, to contain any spillage should a bladder rupture.

Right: Marines with Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, established a booster site during the construction of an Amphibious Assault Fuel System aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 1-11, 2014.

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

For the first time since 1997 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marines with Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, began construction of an Amphibious Assault Fuel System, April 2, 2014.

The last time the AAFS was set up it was only capable of transporting 600,000 gallons of fuel. In 1998, after looking at fuel projections, the Marine Corps determined the system would need to provide twice as much fuel to sustain a Marine Expeditionary Force in the future. The newer AAFS allows for the receiving, storage and distribution of 1.3 million gallons of fuel, consisting of a vast layout of 33 fuel bladders, each holding from 20,000 to 50,000 gallons, placed inside earth-berms.

“Typically, the system is designed to come off a ship,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Collins, Operations Chief, Bulk Fuel Company. “The Marines would land at the beach, with the system, and establish the site to construct it.”

Fuel is crucial to remaining mobile and operating in expeditionary environments. This system uses a five-mile collapsible hose system to transport the fuel from a ship at sea to the units on shore.

“With this system, we can fuel the entire [MEF],” said Collins, a native of Conroe, Texas. “[Trucks] don’t run without fuel. Ships don’t run without fuel. Planes don’t run without fuel,” added the Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who saw the AAFS’s critical role, to mission accomplishment, while stationed in Al

Asad, Iraq in 2003. Building the AAFS from the ground up in 96 hours was the standard when it transported only 600,000 gallons of fuel. Today, although it is significantly larger, the standard remains the same and according to unit leadership, the primary challenge in the construction of the AAFS is the lack of personnel with the expertise in building it.

“Ninety-eight percent of Marines don’t know how this system works,” said CWO2 Christopher Campbell, Platoon Commander of Bulk Fuel Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “Most of the Marines have never seen a system of this magnitude, but in a few days, they will start seeing it come together and realize how important, and how big, the AAFS is.”

Planning for this exercise took four

months and while the setup and breakdown of the bulk fuel system took far less time, according to Campbell, the effects of training and system readiness are crucial to ensuring Marines can operate efficiently and effectively when needed, no matter the mission.

“A perfect example was in Marja,” said Campbell, referring to the Afghan city where coalition forces worked to clear out

“Ninety-eight percent of Marines don’t know how this system works. Most of the Marines have never seen a system of this magnitude, but in a few days, they will start seeing it come together and realize how important, and how big, the AAFS is.”

— CWO2 Christopher Campbell

Taliban and drug traffickers. “Not long after the construction of a tactical airfield fuel dispensing system at Forward Operating Base Dwyer, Marja was taken. We literally fueled the fight. This is a prime example of the capabilities that Bulk Fuel Co. provides to

the ESB, and the capabilities the ESB brings to support the MEF.”

LSMARINES TEST NEW WEST JPADS

Story and photos by: **Sgt. Laura Gauna**



A Joint Precision Airdrop System drops from an MV-22 Osprey during testing of the system Aug. 26, 2014, at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. The JPADS use GPS, a modular autonomous guidance unit, or MAGU, a parachute and electric motors to guide cargo within 150 meters of their target points. To test its precision, the Marines used a series of palletized loads attached to parachutes with the GPS integrated system and dropped them from various altitudes.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. —

Marines with Landing Support Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group, assisted Marine Corps Systems Command in testing the Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS) to support the implementation and evaluation of the system Aug. 25-28, 2014, at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

The JPADS use GPS, a modular autonomous guidance unit, or MAGU, a parachute and electric motors to guide cargo within 150 meters of their target points. In order to test its precision, the Marines used a series of palletized loads attached to parachutes with the GPS integrated system and dropped them from various altitudes.

“The system is basically a guided container delivery system,” said Michael Poe, MCSC JPADS Project Officer. “You input the coordinates into the system, and



Lance Cpl. Chiem T. Saeteurn of Seattle strings together a Joint Precision Airdrop System parachute during testing of the system Aug. 26, 2014, at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

when you throw it out of the back of the aircraft, it will guide itself to that location.”

JPADS, when fully loaded, have the capability to safely deliver thousands of pounds of supplies at a time to forward-positioned Marines.

“If you think about it from an infantry standpoint, they need to resupply at some point, and with our current system they don’t have to chase the cargo,” said Lance Cpl. Andrew Anderson, LS Co., 1st MLG and a native of Brenham, Texas. “They will know where it is, and they can get in and out quickly and efficiently.”

There are three variants of the JPADS, the ultra-lightweight JPADS, which can handle drops between 250-699 pounds and the two larger systems, the 2K and the 10K, which can handle 900-2,200 pounds and 7,000-10,000 pounds, respectively.

With this new system Marine pilots can drop loads from from altitudes up to 24,000 feet, meaning they and their crew may never have to enter the danger zone during combat operations.

“This system will be mostly beneficial for special forces operations because a lot of times

they operate in remote locations, at night and in silence and secrecy,” said Poe, a native of Compton, Calif. “The fact that we can drop supplies from that high means the enemy won’t even know the [aircraft] is there, ensuring the safety of the pilot, the equipment and the troops on the ground.”

To get the supply drops to the impact points on the ground, the MAGU links to the aircraft’s GPS system to locate its position in reference to the targeted drop point. Then, the MAGU receives additional variables such as parachute type, weight and ground elevation.

Once the JPADS hit



1st Lt. Stephen Shepard, Landing Support Company, Air Delivery Platoon Commander, folds a Joint Precision Airdrop System parachute during testing of the system Aug. 26, 2014, at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

AROUND 2014 THE MEF



(Top right) Marines from 1st Law Enforcement Battalion conduct their first ever live fire with the Non-Lethal/Tube-Launched Munition System aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 11, 2014. The 1st LEB Marines are the first to fire this weapon on the West Coast. (Photo by Lance Cpl. John Baker)

(Left) Marines from 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force recently conducted training aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Aug. 18 to Sept. 17, 2014. The month-long exercise trained Marines in many facets all centered on mountaineering skills and high-altitude warfare. Assault climbing, rappelling, horse and mule packing, and small unit movements were all included during the exercise. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Seth Starr)

(Right) Lance Cpl. Joseph Espinoza, a Rifleman with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, patrols through a charred field after four days of patrol operations aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 28, 2014. After the completion of the patrol, the Marines went straight into conducting a live-fire range to strengthen the Marine's abilities to perform professionally in a combat situation. (Photo by Cpl. William Perkins)



(Middle left) A CH-53E Sea Stallion prepares to drop off supplies during the Aerial Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 2, 2014. (Photo by Cpl. William Perkins)

(Middle right) Marines with Landing Support Platoon, Truck Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, prepare to attach an M777 Howitzer to a CH-53E Super Stallion as it hovered over the gun during Exercise Steel Knight 2014 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 9, 2014. (Photo by Cpl. Christopher J. Moore)

(Bottom left) A Marine with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, fires an FGM-148 Javelin during a TOW battle drill aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 28-29, 2014. The Marines were performing basic TOW drills using live fire and maneuver to ensure they were ready for future deployments. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Angel Serna)

VOICES OF THE GROUP

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



Q & A

With Lance Cpl. Senora Lyons

Even as a young child Lance Cpl. Senora Lyons, knew exactly what she wanted to do when she grew up. The now 20-year-old Administrative Specialist for Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group found the same motivation in the Marine Corps as she did developing her talent in music. Despite the detour, she is committed to achieving her childhood dream.

Q: What got you started in singing?

A: I would watch Disney and I would sing along with {the movies} every time, but it wasn't until one of the teachers at school asked me to sing at her wedding, I was maybe 11 or 12. I sang, "From this moment on" by Shania Twain. From there, I was in choir and I started to fall in love with it and enjoy it. Then my senior year of high school, I sang in an acapella group. They helped me learn how to read music, but because of them, I also saw a whole new world. A lot of people go out to parties or drink or find that they have to be surrounded by people. I don't need it. I just love to sing. I don't know who I'd be without singing.

Q: What do you love most about singing?

A: Singing is a way of expressing yourself and depending on the song, you can put all your emotion into it. I'd rather sing than talk.

Q: Would you ever want to be famous?

A: One day I would like to... I would love to be like Mariah Carey, Christina Aguilera, Beyonce, Etta James, one of those big singers that have beautiful, powerful voices. If that doesn't work, I could go on to Broadway and sing and dance and do a terrible job at acting, but if that doesn't work I definitely plan on

going to college to become a teacher of music and follow my dreams that way... make other people happy with their talents and show them that they are so much more than what they see and realize.

Q: Why did you join the Marine Corps?

A: That is a good question. I actually ask myself that sometimes. My dad

**"Singing is a way of expressing yourself and depending on the song, you can put all your emotion into it. I'd rather sing than talk."
- Lance Cpl. Senora Lyons**

told me I either needed to go to college or join the military. I hated school, so I joined the military. I wanted to join the Navy Seals, but I found out you have to be male... and so I heard about the Marine Corps and started going to the Poolee Functions and being there motivated me to become stronger and to become better. Besides music, this became another exciting thrill for me. While it's not what I expected, I've met so many people who come from all walks of life. I joined for the challenge and I got it.

Q: What has the Marine Corps

taught you about yourself?

A: They definitely knock you down and put you in your place, but only to build you up again, because of that they have made me more humble than I used to be. I was a little cocky when I got out of high school.

Q: You sang the national anthem at your unit's Marine Corps birthday ball and seem to have become the go-to singer for ceremonies in the past few months. How does that make you feel?

A: I am really honored and flattered that people have gone out of their way to ask for me to sing at their retirement ceremonies. Let me tell you the first time I did that, I was so nervous. The commanding general was there, everybody was there. It may just be one song over and over, but I have definitely overcome some fears.

Q: What would you say to Marines who have talents like yours?

A: If you have a fear of singing, go to a karaoke bar. Put yourself out there. Whether you play instruments or sing the song yourself. Put yourself out there and people will start to notice. If you're afraid... all of us were at some point. If the Marine Corps has taught you anything, it is to stand up for something... you're a Marine. Come on act like it.



AROUND THE GROUP

Jan. 4:

Semper Fi All-American Bowl in Carson, Ca., at 6 p.m.

Join the Marines in Carson, Ca., to see college football stars take the field at the StubHub Center at 6 p.m. to earn the title of champion. For more information, visit www.SemperFidelisFootball.com

Jan. 22:

Transition Resource Fair

Bldg. 13339, Transition Readiness Facility from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Family members, active duty and veterans welcome.

Jan 31:

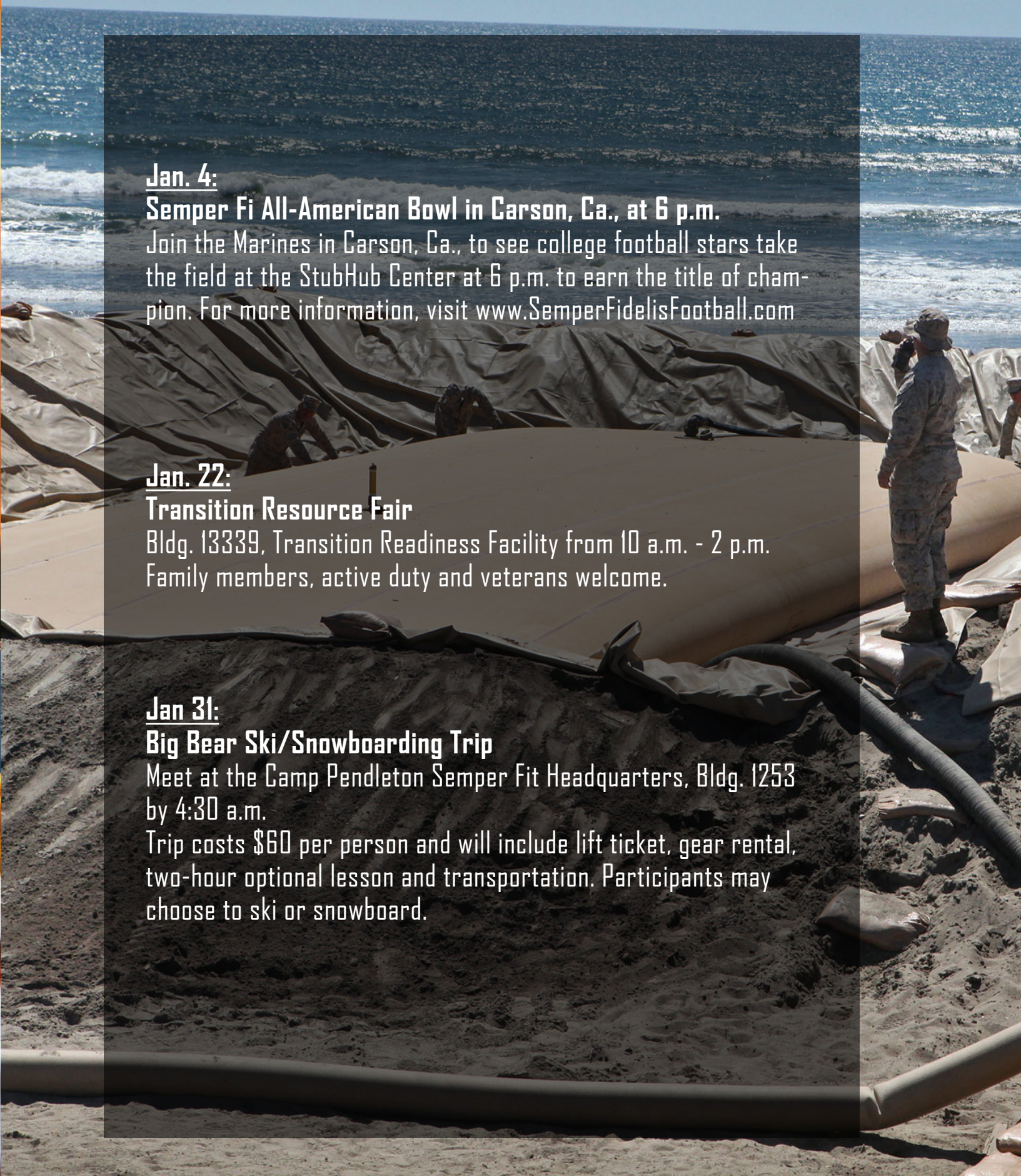
Big Bear Ski/Snowboarding Trip

Meet at the Camp Pendleton Semper Fit Headquarters, Bldg. 1253 by 4:30 a.m.

Trip costs \$60 per person and will include lift ticket, gear rental, two-hour optional lesson and transportation. Participants may choose to ski or snowboard.

By Cpl. Timothy Childers

Lance Cpl. Bryant M. Hiratagarnet, Food Service Specialist, Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, prepares the desserts during a Major General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 26, 2014. The Marines defended their title as the best field mess in the Marine Corps, which they earned during last year's awards, competing against the best selected food service units the Marine Corps has to offer. Hiratagarnet, 19, is from Paia, Hawaii.





PARTING SHOT

By Lance Cpl. Lauren Falk

Marines with Ammo Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group (1st MLG) are instructed in the proper handling of the M136E1 AT4-CS confined space light anti-armor weapon, by Marines with Combat Skills Training School, Headquarters Company, Headquarters Regiment, 1st MLG aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., October 2, 2014. Ammo Company conducts weapons training to maintain unit deployment readiness.