



Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

The Convoy

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7th ESB returns home at last from Afghanistan



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

Lt. Cmdr. Michael J. Kerns, 42, Poulsbo, Wash., reunites with his family after returning from a seven-month deployment to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. During the homecoming celebration, more than 50 service members from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group reunited with their loved ones at the 22 Area parade deck here, May 17.

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Annual Multi-Cultural Day celebration displays diversity

Story by
Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Every year the base hosts an event that focuses on the variety of age, color, gender, race, religion and national origin that makes up the Marine Corps.

More than 1,000 civilians, military members and their families gathered to celebrate and raise awareness during the annual Multi-Cultural day at the 11 Area football field, May 13.

"Multi-Cultural Day is a fun and interesting way to reinforce equal opportunity within the military and the United States," said Gunnery Sgt. Craig A. Ranney, equal opportunity advisor, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "The

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Photo by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow horse-mounted color guard performs the opening ceremony to kick off the annual Multi-Cultural day at the 11 Area football field May 13. This is the last mounted color guard in the Marine Corps.

Corps helps wounded troops collect extra money

Story by
Gidget Fuentes
Marine Corps Times

Thousands of active and former Marines may be eligible for extra money under a recent policy revision expanding benefits to troops wounded in combat, but making sure you collect what you're owed will require some effort.

But help isn't far away.

As soon as the Corps issued its revised policy in mid-April, the Wounded Warrior Regiment set out to identify eligible Marines and assist them through the process.

Known as PAC, short for Pay and Allowances Continuation, the benefit allows wounded Marines to collect the monthly special pays they would have lost once they were evacuated from the combat zone. Those can include hostile fire/imminent danger pay; hazardous duty incentive pay; hardship duty pay and several others.

For some, this will total several thousand dollars.

"We just recently credited a Marine \$4,000," said Terry Herron, the regiment's pay entitlements supervisor.

As of late April, officials had identified 579 Marines eligible under the new rules, and they said they expect there are many others, including Marines who have left the service. However, they said some wounded warriors won't take the necessary steps to collect the benefits because the process can be confusing.

"We are finding that when Marines get overwhelmed, they won't apply," Herron said.

Marines who think they rate PAC should submit an administrative action form to their command, which must forward it to the regiment on their be-

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WOUNDED

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half. Commanders don't decide whether the Marine rates PAC. "We are the chain of authority," Herron said.

A focused review of your records can pay off in other ways, too.

"When we look at their records, we can look at all their pay issues," Herron said. "... We are like their check-and-balance."

For example, a close look may reveal incorrect dates or other misinformation that could have mistakenly eliminated some benefits. When pay disparities are detected, they can be resolved within a matter of days. Herron cited a case in which one staff sergeant recently received \$46,000 in severance pay.

Marines often have questions about their eligibility, especially if they were rehospitalized or received treatment months after the incident for related injuries. Along with informational booklets and benefits guides, the Wound-



Associated Press photo by Brennan Linsley
During a medevac mission by the Army's 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, Marines help a wounded comrade onto a helicopter in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

ed Warrior Regiment provides units with counseling forms with information about the policy and eligibility criteria — "so there's no doubt in their mind," Jones said.

Service members rehospitalized for the same wound or injury that got them medevaced from

the combat zone may also be eligible for tax exclusions, so be sure to check.

"All they have to do is spend one day in the hospital, and they rate tax exclusion for the full month," Herron said. "As long as they are being treated for that

injury, they rate combat tax exclusion."

DO YOU RATE?

Thousands of sick or wounded Marines may be eligible for additional compensation. Think you rate it? Follow these tips for a quicker turnaround:

Check your records. Make sure the information about you in the Marine Corps Total Force System is accurate and up-to-date.

Mark your calendar. Ensure the dates of your injury and initial hospitalization are correct. Personnel casualty reports are issued when you are injured, released from a military hospital and put on convalescent leave.

Know your duty status. If you detect discrepancies in any of the Marine Corps' databases, see your S-1 personnel shop immediately. Note, though, that any change to status can be done only by a military medical officer.

To learn more: www.wounded-warriorregiment.org

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CULTURAL

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event brings service members, families and civilians together to celebrate diversity."

Participants of the event provided displays and performances explaining their cultural heritage. Art work and traditional attire were also exhibited to educate attendees on the various cultures. Many vendors set up concession stands to share cuisines that are served across the world.

"For the United States military to be an effective fighting force and build unit cohesion, Marines and sailors need to understand cultural differences," said Ranney, 37, from Silver Lake Village, Ohio.

Marine Corps Base, I Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st MLG, 1st Marine Division and Marine Corps Air Stations Camp Pendleton joined in on celebrating Multi-Cultural Day by supporting the event with static displays. This provided a meaningful and motivating experience.

Future attendees can look forward to an annual celebration of the vast diverse cultures that have made up the Marine Corps.

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Marines and sailors reunite with families

Story by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Deployments are not only hard on service members, but they are tough on all military families. For most, the best part of a deployment is the homecoming.

On May 17, service members from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group reunited with their families during the home coming celebration at the 22 Area parade deck.

Tension filled the air as families anxiously awaited the arrival of their loved ones.

"It's been too long since I've seen him," said Nashunda T. Henderson, who was waiting for the return of Petty Officer 2nd Class Victor S. Parker.

Many preparations were made over the last several months for the moment of the reuniting of families and friends.

"Marine families had the chance to prepare and the classes helped," said Karla H. Buck, the wife of Staff Sgt. Joshua M. Buck, the company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

For some it wasn't just rekindling friendships and families, but



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

Gunnery Sgt. Jesson D. Manzifortich, reunites with his wife, Yenny A. Marzi and daughter, Samantha N. Marzi during a homecoming ceremony at the 22 Area parade deck here, May 17.

it was an opportunity to start new relationships with newly born additions.

Two fathers of the unit met their children for the first time on the parade deck, said Reid.

The hardest part of the deployment was not seeing his newborn daughter until he came back, said Lance Cpl. Bryce A. Landry, water purification specialist, utilities platoon, Support Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

As the service members em-

braced open arms of loved ones, they were also happy that everyone came home.

It was a good deployment, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adam L. Miller, the executive officer, Bulk Fuel Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. He added, it was incident free and everyone came back.

"We were very successful. As a company we built up over 1 million new gallons of fuel storage," Miller said.

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Accomplished CLB-6 bagpipe player laces Afghan air with musical motivation

Story by
Cpl. Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
CLB-6 Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Aside from the periodic hum of a hovering MV-22 Osprey in the distance or the muted chatter of the thousands of soldiers, sailors and Marines milling about in front of the stage, all else was silent.

Then, the warm-up began.

At once, the two Marines exhaled deep breathes of air into their respective mouthpieces and the sharp sound of their instruments pierced the air of their darkened position here. A small crowd began to form around them, but it wasn't quite show time yet. The two Marines, Sgt. Mark Matice, a utilities NCO with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 and Lance Cpl. Rory MacEachern, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), would perform together as the opening act for the United Services Organization Toby Keith concert May 5.

Unlike most opening acts Keith fans are probably accustomed to, the two Marines marched on stage without guitars or drum sticks, but their own unique weapons of musical motivation - bagpipes.

After belting out a couple of piper classics, including "Amazing Grace," the crowd went wild and this was perfectly okay with MacEachern, a 13-year-veteran of the bagpipe scene.

"This was the biggest crowd I've ever played in front of and it means even more because of where it is," said MacEachern. "The whole experience, from Tobey Keith being here to everyone out having a good time, is amazing."

That statement says quit a lot, considering the North Attleboro, Mass., native has played all over New England and Canada on a competitive level and more times than not, walked away with his band mates as victors.



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Lance Cpl. Rory MacEachern, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Battalion (Forward) has perfected his hobby as a bagpipe musician over the course of 13 years. The North Attleboro, Mass., native began playing at the age of 7 years old and has performed during a multitude of festivals and other social events, including the Toby Keith concert aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan May 5

MacEachern began playing at the ripe age of seven, along with his father and an uncle, after they all made a deal with one another.

"It was all about carrying on a family tradition," said the 20-year-old. "My great grandfather played pipes in the Canadian Army during World War I. My dad, uncle and I were at the Maine Highlander Games one year and all decided we would learn how to how to play."

Though initially he had a little trouble handling the instrument do to his youthful size, he eventually grew into it and hasn't looked back. He has performed with four different bands and won seven of eight competitions. On one occasion, he even bested his uncle's third place award by finishing right at the top.

"Some of the bigger events I have done back home include the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston – I'm sure you can imagine how insane that was and I also played along with the chief of police, of Franklin, Mass., for the mayor as part of the 'Blue Brigade,'" said MacEachern. "Ultimately though, my dream is to finish my tour as

a Marine and play with the Massachusetts State Police Bagpipe Band."

For the time being though, he is quiet happy playing to his brothers and sisters in arms. In addition to the occasional evening performance here, MacEachern has treated the hundreds of newly-minted Marines and their families to an impromptu performance in front of the two Jima Memorial upon graduating from recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He also played as part of the graduation ceremonies upon completing military occupational specialty school aboard Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

According to MacEachern, it's his personal way to keep spirits up.

"A lot of people are pretty surprised to hear bagpipes playing out here," he said. "I get mixed emotions – people love it or hate it – but, for the most part Marines seem to really like it. I think it helps bring morale up and that's always a good thing out here."

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Happenings

Power of blood

1st Marine Logistics Group is scheduled to host a 101 Days of Summer Expo and Blood Drive, May 20 at the 11 Area football field. The event is scheduled to take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Marianne Espinoza at 760-763-3208.

Main Gate construction

The Main Gate renovation project has entered the next phase of construction and is expected to continue through June. Starting May 22, at 7:30 a.m., the Camp Pendleton Main Gate traffic will transition to the post-construction configuration. During 'morning rush hour' 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. there will be four inbound lanes. For all other times, the number of inbound lanes will be determined by the Provost Marshall Office.

Semper Fit combat conditioning

Are you combat ready? Not sure? Get help from professionals. Take part in a two-day event, which focuses on combat readiness for performance and functional strength. The event is scheduled to take place at the Paige Fieldhouse, May 24 - 25 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Marketing yourself for a second career

The Military Officers Association of America will be hosting a free lecture at the Camp Pendleton Mainside Theater, May 24, from 9 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Speaker will be Retired Army Col. Richard Crampton, deputy director of the Officer Placement Service, MMOA. Topics covered will include: job competition, transition planning, strengthening your resume, networking, interviewing and salary with benefits negotiations. For more information call Mr. Valentine at (760)725-6207.

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-Marines.mil
-dvidshub.net/units/1-MLG
-facebook:
Group name "1st Marine Logistics Group"

For more information or ideas that you want to see in this publication, please contact the 1st MLG Public Affairs Office at (760) 763-7795.

Photos from the 1st Marine Logistics Group

Like a good neighbor: 'Red Cloud' Marines rub elbows with Afghan locals

Story by
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
CL-6 Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – During their latest combat logistics patrol in the region May 7-11, Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), were able to spend time getting to know the native population on friendly terms.

The multiple-day resupply mission in support of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, took the Marines of Bravo Company to several locations in and around Now Zad and Musa Qal'eh. Though these days consisted of long hours and hard work, the Marines were happy to spend some time with the cu-

rious groups of locals who gathered around to watch them in action at a few of their stops along their route.

Villagers, including dozens of children, flocked around the Leathernecks as they were eager to voice their wants and needs and discuss security and local issues with the patrol. They also took the opportunity to sell and trade items such as hats, toys, scarves and even food stuffs to include live chickens, turkeys, lambs, bread and vegetables.

The Marines enjoyed the experience perhaps even more than the villagers, as it was a welcome change of pace from day to day operations throughout Helmand province.

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Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
Marines from Bravo Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), decide how much money they are willing to part with in exchange for various items offered by local villagers here May 9. In addition to fresh bread and sodas, the younger locals also put hand-carved sling shots and hats up for sale to the visiting Marines who were in the area conducting a combat logistics patrol in support of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
Lance Cpl. Timothy Driscoll, a machine gunner with Bravo Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), learns the finer points of sling shot techniques from a young villager here, May 9. After completing a combat logistics patrol to the area, the Marines spent time with dozens of curious locals who gathered near their vehicle staging area.



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
A shy young villager remains within a few feet of his home as he watches other children interact with the Marines of Bravo Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) who were in the area conducting a combat logistics patrol in support of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment here, May 9. Each time someone would try to approach him, he would run inside and then slowly make his way back to the step as the Marine drew back.

