

Martial Arts Marines graduate instructor course

Story and photo by
Cpl. Shannon McMillan
1st MLG (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Twenty-five Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) graduated from the 3-week Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructor course at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 7.

Dedicating more than 160 hours to earn the title MCMAP instructor, the Marines were physically and mentally challenged with combat conditioning, strength exercises and mental assessments during the course.

"They are very solid leaders and solid martial arts instructors," said Sgt. Faustino Alonzo, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor-Trainer for the course. "They have been taught by some of the best [instructors] I know."

The Marines who graduated have the knowledge and skill to teach Marines of every rank how to upgrade to the next belt level, said Alonzo, wrecker noncommissioned officer in charge, 1st Maintenance Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st MLG (FWD).

MCMAP is a combat system developed by the Marine Corps that teaches hand-to-hand and close quarters combat techniques. The program focuses on mental and character development, the responsible use of force, leadership and teamwork.

"It's important to do it while we are in Afghanistan because of the environment that we are in," said Alonzo. "It sets the correct mindset."

The "combat mindset" results when Marines are educated and trained on mental, moral and physical disciplines, explained Alonzo.

"It was a tough course," said Sgt. Ian O. Lockheart, a recent graduate.



Twenty-five Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), along with their instructors, pose for a class photo before graduating from the 3-week Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructor course at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Jan. 7. Dedicating more than 160 hours to earn the title MCMAP instructor, the Marines were physically and mentally challenged with combat conditioning, strength exercises and mental assessments during the course.

"I'm kind of glad it's finally over; it was physically demanding, but it was very good."

To be eligible for the course, Marines must be at least a corporal, earn a 225 or above on the physical fitness test, must be within height and weight standards and have completed the gray-belt course.

The instructor course is taught by MCMAP Instructor-Trainers who have graduated from one of the seven martial arts Instructor-Trainer around the Corps.

"It's important to make instructors for the simple fact that the Marine Corps needs to produce ethical warriors," Alonzo said.

Upon graduating from the course, the MCMAP instructors were awarded a green, brown or black belt along

with a vertical tan tab signifying their instructor status.

During the MCMAP instructor course the Marines are educated on warrior and martial arts culture, the history of MCMAP and enhanced leadership skills, which is something they bring back to their units.

Graduating from the course is just the beginning for the new instructors, as they will now pass on what they have learned to junior belt holders in order to create more finely tuned warriors.

"I would love to give back to the Marines under my command now and any other ones I am in charge of in the future," said Lockheart, communication technician, 1st Maintenance Company, CLR-15 (FWD).

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The Sky Is the Limit



Lance Cpl. Kyle A. Jernberg, 22, a landing support specialist with Landing Support Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), directs personnel onto an MV-22 Osprey at the Helicopter Landing Zone on Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Jan. 14.

Story and photo by Cpl. Paul Zellner

Combat Logistics Regiment 3

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan—When Marines deployed to remote forward operating bases are in need of immediate resupply, they look to the sky.

Marines from Landing Support Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), control all helicopter landing zone operations to include aerial resupply missions, gear and personnel transportation as well as all movement of helicopters on their respective forward operating bases.

The landing support Marines are deployed to six forward operating bases and combat outposts in support of four infantry battalions throughout Afghanistan's Helmand province. In addition to transporting personnel, helicopter support teams can air-lift thousands of pounds of cargo at a time from one forward operating base to another.

The Marines have proven to be an essential asset to the infantry units they are located with, especially those in remote areas not easily accessible by ground vehicle.

"A helicopter support team provides the unique resupply capability needed for this type of situation,"

said Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Arismendez, landing support chief, Landing Support Platoon, H&S Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD). "A single HST mission can provide up to 28,000 pounds of chow, water, ammunition or fuel needed to resupply a specific remote location making it both expeditious and efficient while offering a very important resource to the [ground combat elements]."

For Lance Cpl. Christopher N. Johnson, a landing support specialist aboard Camp Dwyer, his favorite part of the job is its diversity.

"I get to be under a bird or sometimes I'm just helping a unit or individual Marine get to their appointed place of duty," said Johnson, a 21 year-old native of Shelbyville, Ky.

Although they operate mostly on their own, the Marines continue to excel in their operations while enjoying the trust of their chain of command.

"[The Marines have] successfully supported numerous helicopter external [food and water] resupply missions in support of routine and operational requirements," said 1st Lt. Joseph H. Borgardt, commander, Landing Support Platoon, H&S Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD). "Our landing support teams hold a lot of responsibility and are doing a fine job at it."

Cpl. Jeremy M. Torres is the only landing support specialist at Forward Operating Base Dehli working in support of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Forward).

"It was a real honor being trusted with that responsibility and gaining the respect of another unit who didn't have [landing support] Marines of their own," said Torres, a 21 year-old native of Yonkers, N.Y.

The experience of working alone has not only given the Marines a higher sense of responsibility, but they say it has given them the skills necessary to pass down their knowledge of helicopter landing zone operations to their junior Marines.

"I can take what I'm learning now and when I become a [non-commissioned officer] I can show my Marines what we did and how it applies whether in Afghanistan or back in garrison," said Lance Cpl. Kyle A. Jernberg, a 22 year-old native of Sioux City, Iowa, and landing support specialist, Landing Support Platoon, H&S Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (Fwd). "As a Marine, that's what I strive for. Since basic training we were taught that the mission is everything. I respect the fact that our leaders have that kind of trust and confidence in us."

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Out with the old, in with the new

7th Engineer Support Battalion demolishes former command post

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
1st MLG

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group held a demolition ceremony to tear down its old command post here, Jan. 12.

The former command post was built in 1942 and housed many commanding officers and their staffs in its 69 years of existence. Several of the former commanding officers attended and participated in the official demolition of the old building.

“I’ve had a lot of memories here,” said Llyod Prosser, who served as the commanding officer of 7th ESB from June 1984 to December 1985. “This building has a lot of history.”

During the ceremony, several past and present commanders gave speeches and later took part in the destruction of the building. All of them gathered around an antique detonator and recited a signature slogan used by engineers before



Past and present commanding officers of 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group prepare to detonate simulated explosives using an antique detonator during the demolition ceremony for the old 7th ESB command post at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12. The building was constructed in 1942 and served as 7th ESB’s command post for 69 years.

detonating explosives – “Fire in the hole!”— before setting off carbon dioxide powered simulation explosives. Afterward, engineers used bulldozers to level the building.

7th ESB has a new 19,000-square-foot command post located a few hundred feet from the old location. The construction of the new building is part of a slew of projects, including a new 1st MLG headquarters building and new barracks aimed at

updating the condition of 1st MLG facilities.

“It was time to get rid of these old buildings,” said John Sweeney, commanding officer of 7th ESB from August 1993 to June 1995. “Our new generation of Marines needs a newer building to work in.”

Since its inception in 1950, 7th ESB has served during multiple operational deployments, including Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Phantom Fury and most re-

cently Operation Moshtarak in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2010, during which 7th ESB improved roads and built bridges to assist in projecting coalition forces into Marjah to clear the area of insurgents. During their tour, the battalion also built wooden structures, purified water, and provided bulk fuel and power in order to sustain the “life support” infrastructure for units throughout the area of operation.

“I can honestly say 7th ESB is one of the hardest-working battalions in the Marine Corps,” said Frank Winter, commanding officer of 7th ESB from September 1991 to August 1993. “I have witnessed it during my time here as well as what the Marines are doing now.”

After the ceremony each commander was given a plaque made with wood from the former command post, so they could take home a piece of history and have something to remember their time as the commanding officer of 7th ESB.

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Air Delivery Marines provide supplies to 2/1 in southern Helmand province

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
1st MLG

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines from Air Delivery Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) completed a series of air drops to the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Forward), Jan. 6.

The Air Delivery Platoon provides supplies to Marines anywhere in Helmand province.

“Air drops are beneficial due to the fact that it keeps Marines, sailors, soldiers and other coalition forces off the roads and away from harm,” said Sgt. Mark D. Ellis, air delivery specialist, Air Delivery Platoon, H&S Company, 1st MLG (FWD). “It is also faster. While convoys generally require about a week to plan and gather supplies, an air drop can be done the same day. We can provide immediate aerial delivery of items such as ammunition to a hot zone in a matter of hours after receiving the request and supplies.”

Using aircraft to deliver supplies has an extreme advantage over combat logistics patrols because the threat from improvised explosive devices remains high for troops on the ground.

“It’s good to know you are supporting the troops,” said Lance Cpl. Jose J.



Parachute riggers with Air Delivery Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) move Container Delivery Systems filled with water to be delivered to the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Forward), Jan. 5. The air delivery Marines completed the latest string of cargo drops in southern Helmand province, Jan. 6.

Alvarez, parachute rigger, Air Delivery Platoon. “You are helping them by taking convoys off the road, and that way they can’t be hit by IED’s.”

A lot of work goes into making sure each parachute is completely operational and will open correctly.

“We have three to four people packing a parachute,” said Cpl. Waco S. Holveburk, parachute rigger, Air Delivery Platoon, “and we have one person watching and making sure every proper precaution is taken.”

The parachute riggers put a lot of time into quality control to ensure each bundle of supplies lands safely.

“It’s what we train for

month after month back in Pendleton,” said Ellis, 27, from Jacksonville, Fla. “We are constantly doing training missions with 1st Marine Division and its subordinate commands to ensure we are effective, proficient and accurate.”

Building an air drop takes a lot of preparation. Although it only spends a few short hours, even minutes, being flown, the delivery is complex, meaning that everything needs to be rigged well in advance.

“Each drop is different, depending on what it is we are dropping,” Ellis said. “If it’s just [food and water], we can have 28

Container Delivery Systems rigged in about three days. This time frame includes building the CDS, packing the parachutes, and attaching the parachutes and inspecting them for airdrop.”

The parachute riggers enjoy building things bundle that are delivered by air, because they know after their cargo hits the ground it will be put to good use by their fellow service members throughout Helmand province.

It is important so Marines can get their supplies and concentrate on their mission,” said Alvarez, 21, from Santa Maria, Calif.

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Marines unveil new training and operations center

Story and photos by
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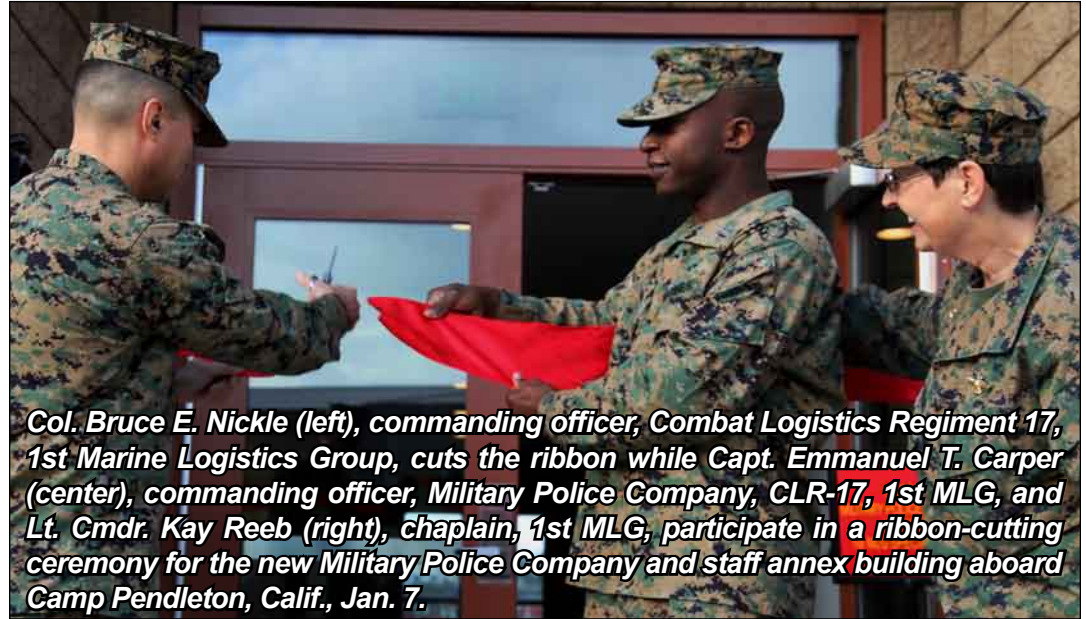
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Marines and sailors with Military Police Company and the Special Staff sections of 1st Marine Logistics Group conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new training and operations facility here, Jan. 7.

The new facility is approximately 23,000 square feet. Military policemen and Special Staff sections will be operating under the same roof.

“Marines with MP Company and Special Staffs, I couldn’t think of a more deserving group of Marines to put in this new building than you,” said Col. Bruce E. Nickle, commanding officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. “It’s about time that you moved out of the old building, which wasn’t built to stay permanent in the first place.”

This is exactly what the Marines of Military Police Company needed, explained 1st Lt. Bradley Motz, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Military Police Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG, who recently returned from a 7-month tour to Afghanistan.

After waiting 14 months for the construction to be completed, the new facility is operational. Besides having larger work spaces, both military policemen and special staff sections have their own conference rooms and classrooms to



Col. Bruce E. Nickle (left), commanding officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, cuts the ribbon while Capt. Emmanuel T. Carper (center), commanding officer, Military Police Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG, and Lt. Cmdr. Kay Reeb (right), chaplain, 1st MLG, participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Military Police Company and staff annex building aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7.

hold their meetings and classes. Another improvement from the old facility is that everyone works together in one area instead of isolating themselves to one part of the building, which allows for better communication and a stronger bond between each section.

“The old building didn’t hold up to what we needed,” said Motz. “Most of our training is conducted out in the field. But when they’re not out in the field, the Marines are now able to receive the same period of instruction. We can give classes to over 100 Marines in the new classroom as compared to, at most, 50 Marines in the old facility. The new technology in the classrooms also allows us to present better classes to our Marines.”

The old building didn’t have enough work space for everyone, said Motz. As compared to a single projector and no screen to work with at the old facility,



A new training and operations facility officially starts operating as the Marines and sailors with Military Police Company and the Special Staff sections of 1st Marine Logistics Group conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7.

the classroom in the new building was designed to hold twice the capacity of the old one and has three projectors with multiple screens so everyone can see what is being taught. Marines with Military Police Co. have the entire first floor to plan, instruct and pass information about their training operations to their Marines while the Special Staff Sections operate on the second floor.

“We’re delighted to be in the new space,” said Lt.

Cmdr. Kay Reeb, chaplain, 1st MLG, who is a member of the Special Staff section. “We appreciate all the work put in to make this happen, and the facility will definitely enhance our ability to do our jobs and serve everyone.”

The new building is located in the 14 Area, across the road from CLR-17’s headquarters building.

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin

The former 7th Engineer Support Battalion command post, which was constructed in 1942, was torn down during a demolition ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12. Several of the battalion's former commanding officers attended and participated in the official demolition of the old building.

Photos from around 1st MLG



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

(top) Lance Cpl. Jose A. Delva, parachute rigger, Air Delivery Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), ties a safety knot onto a Container Delivery System shortly before being air dropped to the Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Forward), Jan. 5. (bottom) Cpl. Waco S. Holveburk, parachute rigger, Air Delivery Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), drives a load of Container Delivery Systems onto a KC-130J, Jan. 5.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Marines with Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group work at their new training and operations facility after conducting a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 7. After 14 months of waiting for the construction to be completed, the new facility is operational.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik