



Combat Logistics Battalion 8

THE CLUB & CHRONICLE

U S M C



FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

To the CLB 8 Team,

I would first like to thank all of you for supporting our CLB 8 family pre-deployment brief in October. The turnout and interaction was tremendous. As I stated during the brief, we are trying to improve the ways in which we communicate to the families; this communication will be key to understanding what your Marines and Sailors are doing and accomplishing. One of the tools we've developed in order to facilitate communication with all of you is a Battalion Facebook page. The CLB-8 Facebook page is still a work in progress, but it will be up and running soon, and I encourage you all to log on and check it out.

Since the last newsletter, we successfully completed a battalion field exercise (Battalion FEX II) in Fort Bragg, NC and conducted annual rifle range qualifications back in Camp Lejeune. I was thoroughly impressed with everything your Marines and Sailors accomplished during the field exercise.

At Fort Bragg, each Marine and Sailor contributed greatly to the progress we have made as a Battalion. Our Battalion readiness for deployment has improved significantly. I expect to continue to make progress during the next couple of months as we get ready to deploy. Currently, most of the battalion is in Twentynine Palms, CA participating in Exercise Mojave Viper, our final training exercise and final evaluation prior to our deployment. Additionally, we have Marines and Sailors who have remained in Camp Lejeune, NC in order to prepare our equipment and facilities to turn over to our higher headquarters.

As most of you know, we recently celebrated the Marine Corps' 235th birthday as a battalion in New Bern, NC. It was so good to see so many people celebrating and enjoying themselves. I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet many of you as you came out to celebrate with your Marine or Sailor. I am looking forward to seeing you all again at the Battalion's Holiday party, which will be held following our return from Mojave Viper.

We are still scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in January 2011 in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. I thank you all for the support you've provided so far, and I ask that you continue to support us as we get closer to deployment. Your Marines and Sailors continue to work and train hard and I am extremely impressed with the quality of men and women serving under our battalion colors.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Michael E. McWilliams



The Commanding Officer , CLB 8, LtCol McWilliams addresses a group of Marines upon arrival at Fort Bragg, NC for Battalion FEX II.

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KEY DATES:

- 8 Nov-19 Dec: Enhanced Mojave Viper (29 Palms, CA)
- 20 Dec: CLB 8 Holiday Party (Marston Pavilion)
- Mid-January 2011: Deployment to OEF

MARINE & FAMILY SERVICES

- LINKS 451-1299
- CREDO 450-1668
- New Parent Support-449-9501
- Children Youth & Teen- 449-9552
- Counseling Services-451-2864
- FRO 450-6301

CLB 8**SERGEANT MAJOR**

On behalf of the entire Crutcher family, I would like to thank the CLB 8 Team for the warm welcome provided to me and my family for the past month. We are truly grateful for your kindness and support. In my short time here at the Battalion, I am impressed with the attitude and morale of the Marines and Sailors. The operational tempo has been non-stop. Training conducted at Fort Bragg to Enhanced Mojave Viper (Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center located in Twentynine Palms), our Marines and Sailors continue to be professionals in order to maintain a high state of mission readiness for our future deployment. The Marines and Sailors continue to be motivated, dedicated, and most importantly combat ready. However, without your support this certainly could not happen! Time away from family - the sacrifice shared by all - will not be replaced, but knowing that our Warriors have a support network pays dividends. You have allowed your Marines and Sailors to do their job by showing your devotion and loyalty to the young men and women that protect our freedoms. For that we salute you! In closing, please ensure that you are taken care of prior to deployment, i.e. wills, powers of attorney, registration, and contact numbers. If assistance is needed, do not hesitate to ask for guidance through our Family Readiness Officer, Mr. Henry Drake. One Team, One Mission! I am delighted and excited to serve with you and look forward to meeting you all.

“Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow” - Doug Firebaugh

Semper Fidelis,
SgtMaj Anthony L. Crutcher



CLB-8 is now on Facebook! Search “Combat Logistics Battalion 8” or go to www.facebook.com/pages/Combat-Logistics-Battalion-8/157215094313968. Become a fan of CLB-8 on Facebook and become better informed on Battalion and family readiness issues!

MCFTB

Marine Corps Family Team Building has a lot of classes to offer and assist you in many ways.

Take a look at their website.

<https://mccslejeune.com>

on the top tab click on family services then on Marine Corps Family Team Building.

If you would like to receive MCCS weekly updates via your email, please sign up by selecting the “sign up for MCCS Weekly” link on the website.



Chaplain Barry (center) provides a pastoral prayer during a Protestant field service.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

USN Chaplain Corp Vision:

Acts 27: 22

“...Keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. So keep up your courage, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.” Acts 27:22; 25

The Religious Ministry Team was busy providing and facilitating ministry with daily field devotionals, Bible studies, pastoral counseling's, and field services. The Religious Ministry Team also had the opportunity to observe several training events while at Fort Bragg providing a ministry of presence.

During the Protestant field service about 20 Marines and Sailors gathered together in the field for a field service. During the service we studied Acts 27: 22; 25 and the question I asked was, “Can I trust God when I encounter a storm in my life?” Paul and approximately 276 people on board a boat received a word from God to help them through a storm. That word was, “keep up your courage.” This same word is for us today. With all the pre-deployment stressors you may be left feeling battered and storm tossed. Even in the middle of the storm, God gives us a word of hope, and a message of encouragement. You can trust God during this pre-deployment phase and when your life gets stormy. He will still the storms in your life. My prayer is that you would be receptive to His love.

Blessings,
Chaplain Barry

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Headquarters and Service Company Marines, friends, and family:

This is my first newsletter as Company Commander. I am First Lieutenant Downs, heralding recently from 1 Marine Air Wing (MAW) located in Okinawa, Japan, where I have been stationed for the last two years. I have been at the helm of H&S for about a month and a half now and am excited to work with the Marines, Sailors, and family members of the company over the next few months as we gear up for our deployment! I am also excited to welcome aboard the Company First Sergeant, First Sergeant Henderson, and Sergeant Major Crutcher. She has been the acting Sergeant Major but now that Sergeant Major Crutcher is on deck, she has returned to H&S Company.

As you know, we recently

went to Fort Bragg, NC, to conduct the last battalion exercise before we depart for Mojave Viper. We left October 6, 2010, a day that dawned crisp and brilliant as a portent of things to come. For nearly the entire exercise, we were blessed with brilliant weather, resplendent bright blue skies, gentle winds, and a persistent sun determined not to relinquish its grasp on summer. The



Marines conduct an EMP shoot during training at Fort Bragg during Battalion FEX II.

arboreal canopy of our billeting area composed of brilliant greens, and although the red leaf-tips of some nearby maples reminded us of the inevitable arrival of autumn, we absolutely couldn't have asked for a better week and a half in the field.

Range 63, the site of our camp set-up, is the largest range in Fort Bragg. The training area is composed of miles and miles of road, both paved and rough, to allow our battalion convoys to practice reaction drills and live fire exercises. Our outstanding Corpsmen, including HN Lassiter, HM3 Magnuson, and HM3 Brawner, supported us both in camp and on the road, ensuring that we are all ready to deploy and will be healthy when we do! Through their efforts, our overall battalion readiness was raised from 52 percent to 74 percent!

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SUPPORT COMPANY

Greetings to the Marines, Family, and Friends of Support Company,

Since I last wrote to you all, your Marines have been extremely busy executing their pre-deployment training and furthering their reputation in Support Company as professional and hard-working Marines. The operational tempo has been high, but your Marines rose to the challenge.

After finishing Battalion FEX I at Camp Davis, the Marines immediately set out to improve upon the lessons they learned from operating during the FEX. They continued to conduct individual and platoon level training to improve on the skills they will need to deploy and operate in Afghanistan during the upcoming deployment.

Soon after this extremely brief period being back at Camp Lejeune, the Marines of Support Company travelled to Fort Bragg for another battalion field exercise. During these long days of training, the

Marines proved to the company staff, and battalion as a whole, their incredible professionalism and their eagerness to improve their skills. Due to the diversity of Support Company, numerous training events occurred concurrently during this field exercise. The Landing Support Marines travelled to Cherry Point to learn and practice moving personnel and



Maintenance Marines conduct repairs on a vehicle during Battalion FEX II in Fort Bragg, NC.

cargo through air operations. Maintenance Platoon established a maintenance point in the field and worked hard checking vehicles as they came off convoys and preparing vehicles to go back on the road. Due to the continued use of the vehicles, many vehicles broke down, which the Maintenance Marines were able to repair quickly and put back on the road to continue operations. The Heavy Equipment platoon provided support to camp operations continually for the duration of the FEX, operating TRAMs around the camp to keep the camp running. Security Platoon continued to improve their convoy operations and practiced missions where they operated as a quick reaction force for convoys on the road, conducting vehicle recoveries and escorting convoys around the training areas. These Marines also conducted a live fire exercise where they

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TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT COMPANY

To the families of Transportation Support Company,

I continue to be amazed by the "Fate Deciders" of TS Company as they keep on doing great things in preparing themselves and each other for our upcoming deployment. Without the support and understanding from our families, this could not be possible. As you know, September and October were very busy months for TS Company.

In September, the company completed numerous pre-deployment training packages that focused on the platoon, company, and battalion level skills. At the battalion level, the company went to Camp Davis South and focused on integrating the company with the other parts of the battalion as they prepared and executed their convoys.



TS Company Marines race each other on assembly and disassembly of their weapons during a Machine Gun Rodeo.

At the company level, the Marines of TS Company finished their 10-day Basic Skills Course. This course ensures tactical and technical proficiency in the basic skills associated with our operational commitments. The course taught everything from land

navigation to urban patrolling. The course concluded with a three-day field exercise that tested the Marines on the material that was taught. At the platoon level, the Marines continued to learn advance first aid, took part in a 10-day machine gun course, and the platoon leadership participated in a four-day fire support course.

In October, the company participated in the second battalion field exercise at Fort Bragg. This eight-day exercise challenged the battalion and company on our mission essential tasks and the company performed remarkably. The manner in which they performed gave me great confidence that we will be prepared for the upcoming deployment. Another important event that took place during October was our first pre-

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ENGINEER COMPANY

Greetings Engineer Company Family,

The Company Commander has surrendered a bit of bulletin space in order to allow me to introduce myself and say a few words. My name is Master Sergeant Mark Medina; and I am privileged to be your Marines' Company First Sergeant. Although I do not come from an engineer or engineer support background, in the short time I have been with your Marines, I have developed a strong appreciation and genuine admiration for the skill and dedication of all our Engineer Company Marines. I was excited to witness some of that skill and gung-ho spirit firsthand while training recently at Fort Bragg, NC. The men



Engineer Company Marines prepare to begin their convoy live fire range. This was just a small part of the training that took place during CLB-8's Battalion FEX II in Fort Bragg.

and women of our company all contributed to enhance our already solid reputation for excellence during ten days of intensely focused live fire and convoy operations training.

In addition to the demands of the robust training schedule at Fort Bragg, our Engineer Marines were able to provide critical support for our Battalion by maintaining reliable camp power and hot shower facilities for our dirtied and grateful comrades. This balanced emphasis of both warfighting skill and personnel support displayed at Bragg provides a preview of the mission we will be undertaking in Afghanistan.

Pre-deployment exercises such as Fort Bragg and the upcoming

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Headquarters Company

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Thanks to the presence of the mobile Dental Van and the dedication of HM3 Warren and HN Rhode in support of Lt Werner, the overall dental readiness increased an overall 18 percent to an admirable 90 percent!

Through the exceptional work of our Communication Platoon, particularly LCpl Barnes, Cpl Caouette, Sgt Roy, Sgt Peiper, and LCpl Kleaveland, our Command Operations Center, (COC) which monitors the day-to-day mechanizations of all personnel—both on and off camp—we were able to communicate nearly effortlessly with our convoys. For this exercise, we also focused on High Frequency (HF) radio operations to allow clear communications at a further distance, thereby reducing the friction that comes when a radio signal is weak and hard to understand. Therefore, during a simulated IED attack, our Marines at home base knew it at once and could send help as needed. Communications is a pertinent asset and a critical piece in any exercise or operation, and our Communication Marines performed exceptionally well during this exercise.

In addition to the extremely morale-boosting presence of hot showers provided by Engineer Company, we deployed with a chow hall that provided us with hot meals both in the mornings and evenings. There are few things more comforting than waking up to the familiar smell of eggs and sausage. Our chow hall Marines, Cpl Daniels, LCpl Leonard, Cpl Mitchell, Sgt Piscione, and LCpl Young worked tirelessly in ensuring that all of the battalion was fed. If this meant staying open a little later or opening a little early to cater to the Marines leaving or arriving from a convoy, they were eager to do so. Although they worked grueling hours, their efforts were not in vain, and without them, it

would've been much harder to maintain the morale and high pace we had set for ourselves!

Of course, no exercise can be successful without the hard work of the Supply and Logistical platoons. In particular, LCpl White's diligence in Supply ensured that everything was issued and returned in an efficient manner, easing camp setup and teardown. Without the hard work of her and the rest of the Marines in supporting roles, it would have been much more difficult to execute this exercise.

H&S continues to grow and even in the past month and a half, I've seen the company improve by leaps and bounds. Despite this busy tempo, the Marines and Sailors continue to prove they can perform far above what is requested of them. I am continually impressed with what they can do.

I thank all of you for your continued support of your Marines! If you ever have any questions or need to get in touch with me, please do not hesitate to call at 301-758-4316 or my Company Office at (910) 450-6166.

Until next time,

1stLt Kathleen Downs



**The Company Commander ,
Headquarters Company,
1stLt Kathleen Downs addresses a
group of Marines at Fort Bragg, NC
for Battalion FEX II.**

Support Company

(Continued from page 3)

fired vehicle mounted weapons off moving vehicles at targets up to 1,200 meters away. Needless to say, I would not want to be on the receiving end of an attack led by Security Platoon. The company as a whole conducted a close-quarters weapons shoot to improve their individual marksmanship skills.

The training your Marines conducted at Fort Bragg was extensive, especially due to the structure of Support Company requiring a vast number of missions to be accomplished simultaneously. The Marines continued to impress the staff during their entire time out there, whether through fast and creative solutions to repair vehicles and get them back on the road or through improved convoy tactics and extremely accurate machine gun fires. The Marines' improvement in their individual and collective efforts was noticeable to say the least, and I have no doubt that these Marines will continue to make their company staff, battalion, and all of you proud in the coming months and throughout the deployment.

As the battalion prepares to travel to 29 Palms, California for pre-deployment training at Enhanced Mojave Viper, I can only continue to tell you how proud the company is of your Marines and how impressed we have been over the past few months. Their dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed.

As always, none of what your Marines are accomplishing would be possible without the dedication and support of their families. These past few months have been stressful for your Marines, and the company staff has pushed your Marines to their limits. Again, they rose to the challenge and have surpassed our expectations. I ask you to continue to provide your Marines the support you have been giving them as they continue to train for the upcoming deployment. Thank you all again for your hard work and dedication, and do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything or have any questions.

(Continued on page 6)

Support Company*(Continued from page 5)*

God Bless and Semper Fidelis,
Capt Sean Day

Congratulations to the following Marines and their families for new births during the past month:

Cpl Jimmerson

Cpl Davis

Cpl Hoffer

Congratulations to the following newly promoted Marines:

Pvt-PFC	Ralston, Billy
PFC-LCpl	Proter, Jacob
PFC-LCpl	Fister, Robert
PFC-LCpl	Brown, Kavana
LCpl-Cpl	Negron, Erick
LCpl-Cpl	Barnhart, Joshua
LCpl-Cpl	Hall, Bryan
LCpl-Cpl	Brown, Alexander
LCpl-Cpl	Hargrove, Lamar



A Security Gunner takes part in a live fire exercise on Range 63 during Battalion FEX II in Fort Bragg, NC.



TS Company Marines receive a convoy order prior to conducting convoy operations while at Fort Bragg.

TS Company*(Continued from page 4)*

deployment brief. That brief was vital for our families to get the most up to date information on our upcoming deployment and to ensure that loved ones know what to expect while we are gone. The last major milestone in October was our rifle range in which the entire company went to Stone Bay to conduct our annual training requirement.

Looking ahead to November, we have our culminating exercise, Enhanced Mojave Viper, which will teach, test, and refine both the collective and individual skills through a thirty-day exercise in Twenty-nine Palms, CA. This will be our last event prior to the holiday leave period in December.

In addition to commending all the Marines and families for the great work they have done, my wife, Caroline, wanted to thank everyone that came to the first spouses' coffee. She was thrilled to see so many of the spouses there and looks forward to doing it again soon. Once again, thanks for a great couple of months and thanks for the support you give to your TS Company Marines and Sailors!

Semper Fidelis,

Capt Jarrad Caola

Engineer Company*(Continued from page 4)*

Mojave Viper in California sharpen our Marines as both ready warriors and highly skilled professionals determined to provide engineer support wherever and whenever necessary.

In addition to our pre-deployment training, I'm confident much of our success stems from strong support received by our Marines from their families and loved ones. Recently, we sponsored a company spouse's night in order to pass information to spouses, introduce our leadership team, and interact with the families on a personal level. Captain Dewey and I both enjoyed meeting the spouses that attended and having the opportunity to address the questions and concerns they shared. We can look forward to deploying abroad knowing we have our families as strong anchors of support keeping the home fires stoked.

Semper Fidelis,

Master Sergeant Mark Medina

Special recognition goes to the following Marines:

Promotions to Corporal- Cpl Corey Stahler, Cpl Robert Tyndall, Cpl Daniel Tucker, Cpl Michael Morrow, Cpl Sukey Delisle

Promotions to Lance Corporal- LCpl Shane Grubb, LCpl Levi Moat, LCpl Miles Robyler

New addition to the Engineer Company Family- Salia Ann Campos was born to LCpl Thomas Campos and his wife Nora on 21 September!

LCpl Derek Nixon was voted by his fellow Marines as the Gung-Ho Warrior for Engineer Company at Exercise Fort Bragg!

I want to give everyone a heads up that the Mass Communication Tool (MCT) will be taken off line at the end of January. The decision to eliminate the MCT was made by HQ Marine Corps due to budgetary considerations.

The replacement for the MCT will be Marine On Line (MOL). The Marine Corps already makes use of MOL for Marines to track their training, leave, etc. The only method in MOL to broadcast a message at this time is through email. There are plans to add phone and text capabilities, but there is no definite timeline for those efforts. We expect some transition pains as we wait for MOL to reach the capabilities that we have had in MCT, especially the ability to make phone calls and send text messages. If you want to continue to receive information about your Marine/Sailor's unit, please encourage him/her to add you as a contact to his MOL account in the Family Readiness module and you must have an email address for him/her to add you....

Lastly, I can not add your information into MOL. It is entirely the Marine's/Sailor's responsibility to do so. If he/she does not add you, then you will NOT receive information from the Family Readiness Officer through the MOL system. So please encourage your Marine/Sailor to update all contact information in MOL and ensure you are added in the Family Readiness Module before the deployment!!



Henry Drake
 Family Readiness Officer
 Combat Logistics Battalion 8

LINKS SPOUSES

DECEMBER

Dec 8 0900-1630

Dec 11 0900-1630

Dec 13/14 1700-2100*

Both days are required for completion certificate

Marriage Enrichment "PREP"

Day Sessions 0830-1530 Evening Sessions 1830-2100

DECEMBER 8/9

Both days are required for completion certificate

Call 910 451-0176

LINKS TEENS 13 & UP

1830-1930

3 DEC

Call 910 451-1299

Marriage Foundation "Before I Do"

0800-1530

DECEMBER 2/3

DECEMBER 16/17

Both days are required for completion certificate

Call 910 451-0176



THE MISSION OF THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER!

To conduct official communications to service and family members on behalf of the Commanding Officer, providing information and referrals; assisting with readiness and deployment support, and managing the family readiness volunteers.

Henry Drake
 Family Readiness Officer
 Combat Logistics Battalion 8

Phone: 910 450-6301
 Cell: 910 554-7914
 E-mail: henry.b.drake@usmc.mil

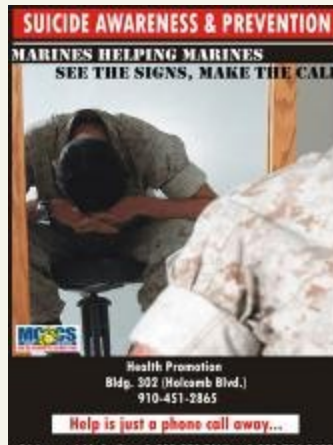
Your link to your Marine and the Command

For a great resource of information on what is available for you here at Camp LeJeune go to the MCCS website, here is some of the information you will find there.

<http://www.mccslejeune.com/>



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