

SECTION II: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

LEGAL/ADMIN

In October, Second Lieutenant Allsbrooks, the inbound Adjutant, conducted turnover with the Administrative Chief, Master Sergeant Aguilar. The main focus for the S1 during this time was completing individual training, conducting turnover, reviewing legal procedures, and ensuring completion of deployment administrative requirements.

In November, Private First Class Wiselinan checked-in to CLB-5 and conducted turnover with Corporal Sanchez. The priority for the S1 during this time was ensuring a complete turnover between inbound and outbound personnel as both Corporal Sanchez and Master Sergeant Aguilar prepared for their upcoming Permanent Change of Station (PCS). S1 continued to finalize rosters and manifests for the upcoming deployment in support of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin (MRF-D) 24.3. These rosters were a crucial focal point for the S1 because they would be used for gathering information regarding the majority of manifests used for DCAC, Passport, DSVS, and deployment accountability. In late November, Corporal Sanchez completed his check-out and conducted his PCS.

In December, the main focus was supporting exercise Steel Knight 23.2. The S1 sent Second Lieutenant Allsbrooks, Corporal Aguilar, and Private First Class Wiselinan to support Steel Knight 23.2 operating in a distributed environment providing support from both Yuma, AZ and Camp Pendleton, CA. Later in the month the inbound Administrative Chief, Gunnery Sergeant Trianapadilla, checked-in to CLB-5. Gunnery Sergeant Trianapadilla and Master Sergeant Aguilar immediately began conducting turnover.

In January, the S1 focused on completing yearly training requirements as well as pre-deployment training requirements. Furthermore, the S1 supported the battalion by scheduling passport office appointments ensuring completion of official passports for Marines and Sailors participating in the deployment. Master Sergeant Aguilar delayed his departure date in order to conduct OCONUS leave prior to his PCS.

In February, the S1 primary focus was on supporting the upcoming deployment. Actions included preparing for and supporting the DAFF inspection, coordinating delivery of passports to Australia, and ensuring the successful deployment of the quartering party. During this time, Master Sergeant Aguilar, the outbound Administrative Chief, checked out of CLB-5 and conducted his PCS. The Adjutant and Administrative Chief, Gunnery Sergeant Trianapadilla, conducted an internal turnover in preparation for the Adjutant's departure on ADVON.

In March, the Adjutant, Second Lieutenant Allsbrooks, and Legal Clerk, Corporal Aguilar, deployed with the ADVON in order to prepare and establish the S1 shop prior to the mainbody deployment. During this time the Adjutant and Legal Clerk conducted turnover with the Ground Equipment Staging Program (GESP) S1 Marines, which consisted of SL3 turnover, workspace familiarization, best practices, and responsibilities. Main bodies one through four, including command element detached personnel, arrived in Darwin, Australia at the end of the month. S1 worked multiple DCACs deficiencies coordinating additional appointments and collecting information as required ultimately ensuring all personnel received DCACs.

1. Awards Presented to Personnel:

a. Meritorious Service Medal:	0
b. Navy Commendation Medal:	3
c. Navy Achievement Medal:	4
d. Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal	0
e. Certificate of Commendation:	10
f. Meritorious Mast:	20

2. Administrative Separations:

- a. Approved: 4
 - b. Suspended: 0
 - c. Pending: 3
3. Legislation and Congressional Action: 0
4. Court Martial Convened:
- a. General: 1
 - b. Special: 0
 - c. Summary: 0
5. Promotions: The following promotions were effected:

Lieutenant Colonel	-	0
Major	-	0
Captain	-	0
1st Lieutenant	-	1
2nd Lieutenant	-	0
Sergeant Major	-	0
Master Gunnery Sergeant	-	0
First Sergeant	-	0
Master Sergeant	-	0
Gunnery Sergeant	-	0
Staff Sergeant	-	3
Sergeant	-	3
Corporal	-	41
Lance Corporal	-	38
Private First Class	-	8
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Total	-	94

6. Officers Joined: MO 3 / NO 4
7. USMC Enlisted Joined: 23
8. USN Enlisted Joined: 6

INTELLIGENCE

In October, S2 supported the Battalion FEX by producing products and assessments for weather, terrain, and notional enemy situation. Additional support included weekly intelligence updates to the commander and staff, security management transition from eEquip to NBIS, and participation in a battalion hike at the end of the month. Lance Corporal Jaramillo arrived at CLB-5 as an individual augment and began the check-in process while also completing the CMP and CLS course. Second Lieutenant Valdelamar arrived at the unit as an individual augment and attended the Logistics Intelligence Planners Course in Twentynine Palms, California. Initial friction points for the section included no organic secret space/vault, no map laminating capability, no organic collection assets, no company to battalion communication for intelligence requirements, and no working CIWs or SL3. Additionally, the S2 section attended the 1st MLG quarterly intelligence summit.

In November, the S2 supported Steel Knight 23.2 by producing products and assessments for weather, terrain, a notional enemy situation, and civil considerations. Additional support included providing weekly intelligence updates, creating initial priority intelligence requirements, approving foreign leave packages, and creating a modified IPB for the confirmation brief for Steel Knight 23.2. S2 also supported a rehearsal of concept walk for Steel Knight 23.2, creating the terrain model and briefing the orientation and enemy

situation. Lastly, a signature management assessment was being planned by 1st MLG, G2 that would include collecting on CLB-5 during Steel Knight 23.2 using Theater level assets and CI/HUMINT Marines at the tactical level by questioning Marines and taking photos of our distributed locations within the Camp Pendleton AO. Areas of interest included, Red Beach, Combat Town Tango for ECC operations, AFA-15, IIT, and the HOLF. For the conduct of SK23.2, the notional enemy situation included a peer adversary with a multi-domain capability. The biggest friction point for S2 was driving the intelligence requirements to synchronize with operational planning. The S2 section received new CIWs that would be imaged shortly after arrival with the support of the G2 and FSR. Other friction points would include getting maps printed. In the beginning of the month, Lance Corporal Hernandez joined the section from the schoolhouse.

In December, S2 supported continuous operations at Steel Knight 23.2 by producing products and assessments for weather, terrain, a notional enemy situation, and civil considerations. Daily INSTUMs were created to include a story board of notional enemy attack on CLC A at AFA-15. SUAS employment during SK did not happen because of adjacent friendly SUAS operations that required all assets to be grounded for the majority of the exercise. The biggest friction point experience by the S2 during Steel Knight 23.2 was information management and lack of TTP for running S2 in a forward and main construct. Little to no information was coming from the companies that would consist of the most updated tactical intelligence. After conclusion of Steel Knight 23.2, the section updated SOPs that included having a mobile COC TTP for future operations. Furthermore, CLB-1 S2 provided feedback on how our operations were being conducted which was helpful to provide an outside perspective of how to run tactical intelligence in a forward and main construct. At the end of the month, Second Lieutenant Valdelamar attended the SUAS program managers course to re-establish the SUAS program for the unit. Other planning that was conducted prior to the holiday break was coordinating with 5th Marines S2 to establish COMREL and guidance for MRF-D 24.3

In January S2 focused on supporting the pre-deployment training Program by giving the MRF-D country brief and starting ISOPREPs for the battalion. Since CLB-5 does not have a vault space, coordination to complete ISOPREPS were completed by giving Marines the option to complete online via NIPR if they have never completed or updating their profile in the EOD Company vault space. S2 also supporting the BITS training providing a brief on operational security. Coordination and planning started for sending Marines to the SUAS course at TALSA West. Prior to commencing training, the battalion had two operators and required additional Marines to be trained in the PUMA and SkyDio platforms to support MRF-D organic collections efforts at the tactical level within the LCE. The TRUAS system was considered for deployment in support of MRF-D 24.3 however we were unable to meet the timelines for procurement. As the Security Manager, the S2 established a battle rhythm to properly review security clearances. The DSVS security clearance submissions took a large portion of S2 time because of the coordination with the MRF-D Coordination Element in Darwin and continuous updates that involved ensuring Marines had a clearance. At the end of the month, Second Lieutenant Valdelamar attended the Anti-Terrorism Officer course.

In February, S2 continued to support PTP requirements, the DAFF inspections, and provided weekly intel updates. To prepare organic equipment for the deployment, S2 reimaged their CIWs and got them added to MCEN SIPR. The section also continued to coordinate sending Marines to the SUAS course. Intel production included planning for PNG HADREX and an EOD Threat Brief. The 1st MLG quarterly intelligence sync was conducted and attended. A China IPB was given at MLG to CLB-5 Officers and SNCOs. Also, courier letters were

completed for S6 to travel with classified material during the flights to Darwin. Total number of SUAS operators trained for MRF-D was (18) personnel; (12) SkyDio and (6) PUMA operators.

In March the S2 continued to work on PTP requirements which included ISOPREPS, DSVS security clearances, and planning for HADREX and Southern Jackaroo. Second Lieutenant Valdelamar attended the rifle range and combat marksmanship program (CMP) range. S2 coordinated to have CIWs imaged through 1st Intelligence Battalion with the support of the FSR. Final projects included establishing ATO requirements for the RBE, Company Level Intelligence Cell planning for the LCE at MRF-D and attending the 1st MLG Security Management meeting. The security managers meeting would bridge the gap of missing information that was required to ensure we understood the updates that NBIS brings to the clearance process. Lance Corporal Jaramillo and Lance Corporal Hernandez deployed via main body 1 and Second Lieutenant Valdelamar deployed via main body 2. By the end of the month, three Marines from S2 were deployed with MRF-D 24.3 with Corporal Tyma remaining on Camp Pendleton with the RBE.

COMMAND, OPERATIONS, AND TRAINING

In October, the unit continued unit level training and conducted a command post exercise from 4-5 October in preparation for the battalion Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE). During this same window the unit also began its fiscal year and pre-deployment training program cycle by conducting combat marksmanship program tables 3-6 training. From 11-12 October, the unit coordinated with the College of Distance Education and Training to conduct an Officer war gaming period of instruction that provided insight to expeditionary advances basing operations. From 16-20 October the unit conducted a battalion FEX as its final mission rehearsal for the MCCRE. This event culminated with a nine-mile hike. The Explosive Ordnance Team conducted its certification for deployment with support from 7th Engineer Support Battalion's EOD Company. Additional actions during this period included conducting Tactical Combat Casualty Care training for all service members and beginning phase two of the scheduled maintenance stand down. Outside the scope of operations, the unit conducted team building events such as Trunk or Treat with CLR-1, Pizza at the Barracks for the Marines and Sailors, company-level field meets, new join welcome aboard briefs, and hail and farewells.

In November, the battalion continued its maintenance stand down efforts to prepare for Steel Knight 23.2. On 8 November the unit held its 9-mile MCCRE hike that was evaluated by Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR) 1. The TEEP slowed down during the middle of the month to observe Veterans Day, the Marine Corps Birthday, and Thanksgiving Holiday. After completion of the holiday periods, the unit finalized preparations for Steel Knight 23.2 and deployed elements to the field at the end of the month. Between 27 and 29 November over 250 Marines and Sailors deployed to various training areas across Camp Pendleton, CA and Yuma, AZ to commence the battalion MCCRE simultaneous with Steel Knight 23.2.

During December, the battalion participated in Steel Knight 23.2, which occurred from 27 November to 11 December, serving as a pivotal field exercise to prepare for deployment in support of MRF-D 24.3. The scenario of Steel Knight was crafted to allow I MEF to practice expeditionary advanced base operations within a maritime campaign setting. After completion of Steel Knight 23.2, the battalion completed a remedial hike, conducted training at two Combat Marksmanship Program ranges, covering tables 3-6, and completed the Underwater Egress Trainer to guarantee Marines and Sailors were thoroughly ready for deployment. The battalion organized a Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar to fulfill PME requirements for Marines. Lastly, the battalion hosted a Family Day Holiday Party to provide Marines and Sailors with an opportunity to enjoy quality time with their families away from the workplace before taking holiday leave.

In January, CLB-5 attached to 5th Marines and continued its planning efforts for MRF-D 24.3. The operations section spearheaded the coordination and planning to complete all pre-deployment training requirements including combat marksmanship program, cultural briefs, threat briefs, ANAMs, Sexual Assault Prevention Response, and Law of War to ensure the battalion's operational readiness for deployment. Moreover, the operations team wrapped up its involvement in the MRF-D 24.3 Initial Planning Conference held on January 19th. The primary objective of the IPC was to refine the exercise plan and the force composition for REDEX. Furthermore, the battalion was subject of a Logistics Readiness Evaluation from 25 January to 2 February to verify the accuracy and compliance of all programs with established standards.

In February, the Operations Section participated in a two-day EOTG Foreign Humanitarian Assistance tabletop exercise. This exercise included instructional sessions and role assignments focused on crisis response, with participants from all Major Subordinate Elements. First Lieutenant Cook, First Lieutenant Damilini, and Staff Sergeant Wardsmith participated in a Watch Officer and Watch Chief course from February 5-9; the course familiarized them with the duties and operations of a COC. Concurrently, our S-4 section, and motor transportation section supported GCE in TRAP training ensuring integration of personnel and aid to potential search and rescue situations. On 16 February, the battalion organized a Field Meet/Family Day, providing Marines, Sailors, and their family members with an opportunity to enjoy some recreational activities before deployment. On 20 February First Lieutenant Cook and First Lieutenant Damilini, part of the FOPS cell, attended the Mid Planning Conference for Southern Jackaroo in Townsville, Queensland. The conference, held from 22-23 February, focused on coordinating execution and requirements with 3BDE and the Japanese Defense Force. Lastly, between 29 February and 20 March, all rotational equipment underwent inspection by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF) prior to being transported to Darwin.

In March, CLB-5 proceeded with the DAFF inspection to ensure that all equipment was approved for deployment. The battalion scheduled two pre-deployment leave blocks for both ADVON and main body personnel to spend quality time with family and friends before departure. On 8 March, the ADVON (70 pax) deployed to Darwin to ensure that all facilities and billeting were in satisfactory condition prior to the arrival of main bodies 1 and 2. Soon after, main bodies 1 and 2 were deployed on 22 and 24 March respectively. Upon arrival in Darwin, all Marines and Sailors participated in the mandatory RSO&I briefing, encompassing cultural orientation, intelligence updates, driver awareness, range familiarization, and training opportunities, ensuring comprehensive knowledge, and understanding of the local area. CLB-5 RBE oversaw the deployment of MRF-D main body 1 and main body 2 flights consisting of over 300 Marines and Sailors. CLB-5 RBE also oversaw the redeployment of GESP 24.1 quartering party and ADVON consisting of 34 Marines and Sailors.

LOGISTICS

In October, the S4 supported the battalion FEX in order to prepare for the MCREE. This included supporting an Evacuation Control Center and conducting a multi-unit aerial delivery operation, supporting the class I resupply of Marines and Sailors participating the battalion FEX. Later in the month, the S4 participated in additional planning conferences in support of Steel Knight 23.2 where the unit was to be evaluated prior to the upcoming deployment.

In November, the S4 assisted in multiple company field meets with support from the food service section. Additionally, the S4 continued planning alongside the S3 for Steel Knight 23.2. At the end of the month, the S4 embarked and deployed the unit to Steel Knight 23.2, an exercise that was conducted in Camp Pendleton, CA and Yuma, AZ. Finally, the S4 deployed to the field in support of Steel Knight 23.2 providing embark and food service

Marines, along with section heads to assist in logistic support during the execution of the exercise.

In December, the S4 completed Steel Knight 23.2 and successfully redeployed the unit back to Camp Pendleton ensuring all equipment was properly accounted for and received. The logistics section spent the remainder of December preparing for the Logistics Readiness Evaluation, supporting a CMP range, as well as preparing for the upcoming DAFF inspection in order to deploy the unit in support of MRF-D 24.3.

In January, the focus of the S4 was preparing the unit to begin the DAFF inspection as well as making final preparations for the LRE inspection. The S4 earned commendatory marks on both the ammunition and container management portion of the LRE.

In February, DAFF inspections continued to be overseen by the S4. Additionally, the S4, EOD, and Role 2 participated in the Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel Course with the GCE, training the landing support Marines on aircraft recovery operations. Lastly, the food service Marines assisted in the feeding of Marines, Sailors, and families for the battalion's family day.

In March, the S4 deployed Marines on ADVON, MB1, and MB2 flights to Darwin, Australia in support of the MRF-D 24.3. The S4 oversaw the successful completion of DAFF ensuring the unit was able to deploy all required equipment in order to support the upcoming deployment.

SUPPLY

During the month of October, the supply section assisted in the preparation for the Battalion FEX which acted as the final preparation for the battalion MCCRE during Steel Knight 23.2. Supply submitted requests for port-a-johns for the 9-mile hike that went in conjunction with the end of the Battalion FEX. Additionally, supply coordinated with the companies and commodities for ServMart purchases with the start of the new fiscal year.

In November, the supply section assisted in securing a port-a-john contract for the 15-mile hike which was a portion of the Battalion's MCCRE. Supply also coordinated with the Camp Pendleton and Yuma Fuel Farms to acquire a new QR Code to support fuel runs. Gaining access to this new fuel QR Code, which has since officially replaced the physical fuel keys, allowed the motor transport section to successfully complete their missions during the MCCRE, Steel Knight 23.2, which had sections and companies in various locations throughout Camp Pendleton, California and Yuma, Arizona. CLB-5 conducted the MCCRE from 27 November to 11 December 2023.

In January, supply conducted the semi-annual Supply Officer's Internal Controls Program inspection in preparation for the upcoming Logistics Readiness Evaluation. The supply section successfully completed the evaluation without failing any section of the inspection and ended with a 92% overall rating. Supply submitted and processed all TOT and TOP requests for deployments and re-deployments of the GESP and MRF-D 24.3 LCE.

In February, supply conducted the wall-to-wall physical inventory in order to conduct the changeover of account M28280 from Lieutenant Colonel Bolz to Major Cordero, Second Lieutenant LeMoine to Second Lieutenant Brown, and Gunnery Sergeant Broutan to Staff Sergeant Cobbs. In preparation for deployment in support of MRF-D 24.3, supply had submitted requests through the UIF and acquired jungle boots, bed nets, Woodland FROGs, and deployer bags needed for the climate we would be expecting while in Australia. Supply also coordinated with the Command Element and the Camp Pendleton IIF to acquire a 10% BOM draw for main packs, kevlar, gortex, and flaks to use while on deployment in the event of personally issued items being lost or damaged.

In March, supply executed deployment to Darwin, Australia via the ADVON, Main Body 1, and Main Body 2 movements.

COMMUNICATIONS

During the month of October, the communications section conducted turnover between off-going OIC First Lieutenant Jameson and oncoming OIC First Lieutenant Enyeart. The turnover focused on a full CMR validation and proper handover of tasks that the section had ongoing. The section also underwent a I MEF level KMI inspection, which the was successfully passed. Majority of the communications Marines also participated in a five-day Battalion FEX, focusing on utilizing the newly acquired Starshield to pull NIPR services, and the MMT to pull SIPR services.

During the month of November, the communications section focused on planning and preparation for upcoming exercise Steel Knight 23.2. During this time, leadership began coordinating with 5th Marines S-6 as well as 2/5 S6 in preparation for supporting these units during the exercise. Preparation included a two-week STRAPEX, focused on establishing consistent operational checks using the radio and data systems to be utilized during the exercise.

In December, the communications section executed Steel Knight 23.2 along with the rest of the battalion. Communications personnel were distributed across multiple sites in both Camp Pendleton, CA and Yuma, AZ. Our primary focus during the exercise was to enable command and control for the LCE, both internal to the battalion and external to higher and adjacent units. Equipment utilized included the PRC 117G, Starshield, MMT, Kymeta, VSAT-S, and MRC 148.

In January, the communications section returned from the holiday leave block and focused primarily on preparing for the upcoming LRE inspection. The preparation consisted of validating inspection checklists, reviewing record jackets, and ensuring service requests were accurate and up to date. The section also continued to conduct weekly synchronizations with the 5th Marines S-6 and adjacent S-6's that would form the MAGTF for the upcoming MRF-D 24.3 rotation. Another focus was analyzing the equipment set that we would fall in on while deployed and deciding what organic equipment would need to be deployed as rotational equipment. The section also received approval to purchase various commercial equipment with MRF-D funds during the MAGTF Requirements Generations Board to support MRF-D 24.3. The equipment included: Iridium Satellite phones, Comrod MUOS Antennas, and Comrod HF Loop Antennas.

In February, the communications section ensured all organic communications equipment that was scheduled for deployment was packed into the quadcon and transferred to the DAFF lot for final movement to Australia. Communications Marines supported DAFF inspection cleaning for the entire duration of the evolution to ensure communications equipment was handled properly during the cleanings. This month also consisted of completing pre-deployment training requirements and ensuring all requirements were met prior to Marines deploying. The communications section also focused on planning for some of the initial exercises that were to take place at MRF-D 24.3, submitting frequency requests to meet the 120 day timelines.

In March, the communications section deployed (7) Marines on the ADVON movement in order to ensure a proper turnover with the GESP for the communications CMR and KMI account. The ADVON personnel also focused on making sure workspaces for all LCE personnel were fully operational prior to main body arrival. The remainder of the communications personnel arrived on Main Bodies 1 and 2, focusing on the safe and secure transfer of CCI equipment from Camp Pendleton, CA. Upon their arrival, the communications section shifted focus to ensuring equipment was properly inducted into maintenance and planning began to support upcoming operations.

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

During October, H&S Company began operational training with a Command Post Exercise and a CMP range. The company tied in reporting requirements from the CMP shoot to a Combat Operations Center to practice C2 in preparation for Battalion FEX 1-24 later in the month. The company also participated in a

Battalion Field Meet. Towards the middle of October, the Officers participated in a PME with regards to Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations. The month concluded with Battalion FEX 1-24 which culminated with a 9-mile hike in preparation for the Battalion's upcoming MCCRE hike.

In November, H&S Company sent Marines to a Food Service Foraging course in which Food Service Marines learned how to safely prepare meat obtained in an expeditionary environment. The company planned on using this asset during the upcoming Steel Knight 23.2 for the feed plan. H&S also ran COC operations in conjunction with Evacuation Control Center (ECC) training. H&S followed ECC training with the Battalion's MCCRE hike. H&S then celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. H&S finished the month by beginning the Steel Knight 23.2 exercise.

In December, H&S finished the Steel Knight 23.2 exercise, in which it was certified to be able to deploy in support of MRF-D 24.3 and shifted focus to pre-deployment training, including CMP ranges and underwater egress training. H&S finished the year by executing holiday leave block periods.

After returning from the holiday leave blocks, H&S participated in Back in the Saddle training in conjunction with pre-deployment briefs. January began the strong push to becoming PTP complete including CMP ranges, wills/power of attorney, and immunizations.

H&S began February by conducting more ECC and Foreign Humanitarian Aid operation trainings in addition to completing the vehicle egress trainer in accordance with PTP requirements. Personnel from H&S also participated in Field Ordering Officer and Pay Agent trainings that allows H&S to conduct small contracts in support of operations. Pre-deployment leave began in February, and (3) officers from H&S departed to Australia as a part of the Quartering Party. H&S finished February by conducting another CMP range.

March began with DAFF inspection, an inspection in which all of the equipment going to Australia needed to be inspected for debris that could be harmful to the Australian environment. Much of the remainder of March was completing one final CMP shoot prior to deployment, pre-deployment leave, and finalizing PTP training. The ADVON departed for Australia on 8 March and Main Bodies 1 and 2 departed for Australia on 21 March and 23 March respectively. By the end of March, the vast majority of Marines and Sailors from H&S were deployed to Australia.

COMBAT LOGISTICS COMPANY ALPHA

As the calendar rolled from September into the onset of October, the company led the charge in a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) course, providing Marines and Sailors with the opportunity to elevate their skills and progress to the next level of proficiency.

As October dawned, Combat Logistics Company A (CLC A) stepped into action, extending vital support to the battalion by ferrying troops and essential Class I supplies to Marines and Sailors embarking on Combat Marksmanship Program (CMP) training, a crucial component of the Pre-deployment Training Program for the upcoming Marine Rotational Force Darwin 24.3 deployment. Their efforts were not only instrumental but also earned them the coveted title of victors in yet another fiercely contested battalion field meet.

CLC A seized the opportunity to showcase their multifaceted capabilities and engaged in cross-training during a Battalion Field Exercise in October. From Movement On Urban Terrain/Close Quarters Combat training to water purification, convoy operations, counter Improvised Explosive Device training, Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training, bulk fuel operations, and vehicle recovery, the company proved its mettle in diverse operational scenarios. The rigorous exercise culminated in a challenging 9-mile hike, a testament to the company's resilience and readiness. Underscoring their commitment to camaraderie and community, CLC A concluded the month with a spirited Halloween festivity at the Combat Logistics Regiment 1 Trunk or Treat event.

With the arrival of November came the ultimate test of endurance as the battalion's hiking regiment underwent scrutiny during the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE). Demonstrating unwavering determination, CLC A navigated the challenge with aplomb, emerging unscathed. The Marines and Sailors marked this milestone with a jubilant celebration at the CLB-5 247th Marine Corps Birthday Ball before refocusing their efforts on preparations for STEEL KNIGHT 23.2, a pivotal training exercise that would finalize their MCCRE evaluations ahead of deployment.

Throughout the latter half of November and into the initial weeks of December, CLC A plunged into the heart of STEEL KNIGHT 23.2, executing a myriad of tasks with precision and finesse. From fortifying Evacuation Control Center operations to establishing Combat Service Support Areas, facilitating troop transport, and contributing to innovative culinary experiments with locally sourced food items, the company showcased versatility and adaptability. Bolstered by attachments from across the battalion, including medical capabilities, religious support, and maintenance expertise, CLC A seamlessly transitioned from STEEL KNIGHT 23.2 to support another battalion-led CMP range.

As January dawned, the battalion underwent a significant realignment, transitioning from CLR-1 to become part of the 5th Marine Regiment, setting the stage for the impending deployment. Amidst this transition, CLC A Company Commander, Capt Pierre R. Sajous II, participated in the Grizzly Warfighting Conference, gaining invaluable insights to guide the company forward. With a renewed focus on pre-deployment training and preparations for the Logistics Readiness Evaluation (LRE), CLC A remained steadfast in their commitment to excellence. Notably, Lance Corporal Diaz and Corporal Rivera earned honorable mentions for their exemplary work in the On-Vehicle Equipment section during the LRE inspection.

February kicked off with a spirited battalion motivational 3-mile run, setting the tone for the month ahead. CLC A continued their unwavering support, overseeing one of two CMP ranges scheduled within the month. Marines honed their skills further through Vehicle Egress Trainer sessions, ensuring readiness for any scenario. Midway through the month, CLC A clinched their third consecutive victory in the battalion field meet, proudly hoisting the CLB-5 Field Meet Champions hammer aloft. As the month drew to a close, the company engaged in intensive Vehicle Egress Training and made final preparations for imminent deployment.

With March's arrival, the crescendo of training, inspections, and morale-building events reached its zenith as the advance party, led by the Company Executive Officer, First Lieutenant Shuman, and the Company Motor Transport Chief, Gunnery Sergeant Garcia, embarked on their journey. Amidst a flurry of activity, CLC A lent steadfast support to one final CMP range before bidding a poignant farewell to loved ones, embarking on their mission to bolster the Marine Rotational Force Darwin 24.3 endeavor.

GENERAL SUPPORT COMPANY

In October, General Support Company conducted three hike evolutions, from 3-6 miles in distance, in preparation for the upcoming Battalion MCREE. GS Company conducted its first field meet at Paige Field House. Additionally, General Support Company won the Battalion Fight Tonight Competition for the first time, marking them as the company with the highest readiness and training effectiveness in the Battalion. On 13 October, the Sailors celebrated the Navy's Birthday. From 16-20 October, members of GS Company conducted the Battalion FEX in Camp Pendleton. In October, GS Company graduated HM3 Arnold, HM3 Baysic, HM3 Puyans, HM3 Siverson from Corporal's Course, which was led by First Sergeant Canto.

In November, General Support Company conducted their MCCRE 9 Mile Hike evolution. The Company also participated in the Regimental Turkey Bowl training. Additionally, Maintenance Platoon, hosted some members of CLB-23, a

reserve unit from Sacramento, who assisted with maintenance efforts to prepare the unit's gear for the Administrative Storage Program. On 27 November, General Support Company began deploying platoons to Yuma, AZ and various areas of Camp Pendleton to conduct Steel Knight 23.2.

In December, General Support Company conducted Steel Knight 23.2, and executed, distributed, and maintained equipment in support of the battalion. During this evolution, Role 2, Maintenance, and Intermediate Supply Platoons successfully demonstrated the ability to conduct disaggregated operations in a contested environment. Following their return, General Support Company began conducting the holiday leave periods.

In January, General Support Company successfully completed the Logistic Readiness Evaluation. General Support Company also won the Battalion Fight tonight competition for the second consecutive quarter in a row. General Support Company completed a Company CMP Shoot to conduct Tables 3-6. General Support Company welcomed aboard Staff Sergeant Mendoza-Corona as the Company Gunnery Sergeant and said goodbye to Sergeant Duran Garcia. General Support Company conducted Back in the Saddle and pre-deployment training upon returning from leave. Role 2 Platoon spent a majority of January preparing for and conducting MEDLOG LTI's for Steel Knight AMAL Equipment. Second Lieutenant McCullough completed the Basic Cold Weather Advisor Course, and SN Bonestell completed the Cold Weather Mountain Medicine Course, both located in Bridgeport, CA. Additionally, Sergeant Williams was sent to the Supply Chain Management Intermediate Course. Maintenance platoon awarded several reservist maintainers from CLB-23 with Meritorious Masts for their assistance in maintenance efforts for the upcoming deployment and the LRE Inspection.

In February, General Support Company sent Corporal Palacios, Lance Corporal Duran, Lance Corporal Abad, and Lance Corporal Dupre TAD to receive PUMA and SkyDio UAS Training. General Support Company conducted multiple Rollover Egress Trainings in order to prepare Marines and Sailors in the event they are in a vehicle mishap.

Throughout March, General Support Company deployed 142 individuals in support of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin 24.3, and began conducting operations throughout the Northern Territory, and Sydney, Australia. In March, Captain Kochera attended the Joint Logistics Course 24-004 in Fort Gregg Adams, Virginia; Second Lieutenant McCullough attended the Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival Course in Miramar, CA; and LT Bracewell and LT Johnson attended the Joint Enroute Care Course. In Australia, General Support company began conducting maintenance, supply, and medical training operations in support of the MAGTF's mission.

GROUND EQUIPMENT STAGING PROGRAM

In October, the Ground Equipment Staging Program (GESP) conducted a detailed analysis of the MRF-D equipment and presented a list of Principle End Items (PEI) that were recommended for retrograde and replacement. The GESP participated in and provided updates regarding the account to the Commanding General (CG), 1st Marine Logistics Group during the MAGTF Material Readiness Update brief. Members of the Australian Defense Forces 1st Combat Service Support Battalion (CSSB) toured Matilda Lines and received a brief regarding the detachment's capabilities. After the tour there were discussions and initial plans established to conduct several "Soldier Swaps" during the GESP's deployment. The Operations Platoon supported the redeployment of MRF-D 23.3 by transporting material to the Port of Darwin or to Royal Australian Air Force Darwin and then subsequently supervised the loading and departure of the remaining equipment. Additionally, the GESP provided tours of the facilities to the MEF Support Battalion Commanding Officer and Sergeant Major.

In November, the GESP conducted an exchange of personnel with 1st CSSB primarily consisting of motor transport operators. The GESP hosted a Field Meet and barbeque with 1st CSSB at the conclusion of the exchange. The detachment prepared and briefed all members regarding the unit's Cyclone Plan

in preparation of destructive weather. The GESP celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday on 9 November at the Robertson Barracks Sergeant's Mess. On 11 November the GESP provided static displays at the Darwin Military Museum in recognition of Remembrance Day. The GESP hosted the CG, I MEF on 13 November and provided tours of Matilda Lines. The INDOPACOM J-4, MG Gardner, visited Robertson Barracks and toured Matilda Lines.

In December, the GESP conducted a Corporal's Course and a Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar in support of PME efforts. GESP leadership attended and participated in the Australian - American Association of the Northern Territory's holiday event. The MRF-D 24.3 Role II leadership conducted a visit to Darwin and assessed the status of the AMAL/ADAL blocks and Class VIII stockage levels. The GESP detachment conducted leave blocks and continued to prepare and complete pre-Logistics Readiness Evaluation (LRE) preparation actions.

In January, the GESP received a LRE from I MEF G-4. Corrective Action Plans for all findings and discrepancies were developed and implemented to improve and correct deficiencies. The detachment concluded all mid-deployment leave plans. A Maintenance Assessment Team from the GESP deployed to Peleliu in support of Marine Corps Engineer Detachment - Palau to conduct an evaluation and determine corrective actions for the engineer equipment set. GESP leadership conducted a site survey of Joint Logistics Unit - Victoria to observe the various capabilities and services available. The detachment finished the month by publishing the MAGTF account turnover Letter of Instruction.

In February, the GESP participated in a ceremony commemorating the sinking of the USS Peary and the bombing of Darwin by providing a color guard. Additionally, a team from MARCORSSYSCOM deployed to Darwin and installed the Storage Retrieval Automated Tracking Integrated System (STRATIS) in support of the intermediate supply block. Also, a Field Service Representative from the JLTV program office conducted an inspection of all tow eye hooks across the MRF-D JLTV fleet. The GESP provided a material readiness update to the CG, 1st MLG regarding the MRF-D equipment set. The detachment conducted barracks facilities inspections and pack outs in preparation for transitioning billeting areas back to Defense Accommodation Precinct - Darwin (DAP-D).

In March, the GESP Officers attended the ADF Army's Birthday Celebration. A Food Inspection Team came to Darwin and conducted an assessment of the Operational Rations with MRF-D. All GESP personnel relocated billeting areas to DAP-D. The detachment provided baggage handling and personnel transportation support to the MRF-D 24.3 ADVON. Account turnover actions commenced on 12 March with all MAGTF elements. The MEF G-4 conducted a visit to Robertson Barracks and held discussions with key leaders. The GESP Quartering Party departed via commercial air services to CONUS on 15 March. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, along with the senior logisticians across all services, conducted a tour of Matilda Lines. The GESP ADVON departed via commercial air services to CONUS on 22 March. The CG, 1st MLG conducted a tour of MRF-D areas and facilities, as well as met with multiple agencies and units within the area. The GESP OIC provided an account turnover brief to the Deputy Commanding General, I MEF; CG, 1st MLG, and MRF-D 24.3 elements. The GESP main body departed Darwin on 31 March and redeployed to CONUS for demobilization and decomposite.

BATTALION AID STATION

For the month of October, the Battalion Aid Station (BAS) continued its focus on the Battalion's medical and dental readiness while also providing medical support for the Battalion FEX from 16-20 October in Camp Pendleton. Focus of effort for medical readiness was audiograms, immunizations, and PHAs. Towards the end of the month the BAS switched focus to preparing for Steel Knight 23.2. The BAS welcomed HM1 Taylor from 1st Medical Battalion.

During the month of November, BAS completed the LTIs on AMALs and provided medical support for Steel Knight 23.2 from 27 November to 8 December. HN Smith arrived from CLR-17 during the month of November.

For the month of December, BAS continued support to exercise Steel Knight 23.2. Thanks to the Corpsman's hard work and dedication, CLB-5 completed Steel Knight 23.2 with zero mishaps or heat injuries. Upon returning from Steel Knight 23.2, BAS again focused on increasing medical and dental readiness in preparation for deployment ISO MRF-D 24.3 by coordinating with Deployment Medicine to schedule dates and times for ANAM testing and holding eight immunization stand downs for influenza and Japanese Encephalitis Virus. HM2 Alvarez was presented a Navy Achievement Medal for her efforts during Mountain Training Exercise 5-23 and HM3 Wright was welcomed aboard from Field Medical Training Battalion West. BAS conducted one TCCC-ASM course training seven personnel.

During January, BAS continued its focus on pre-deployment medical readiness and focused on finalizing audiograms, ANAMs, Pre-Deployment Health Assessments, and JEV shots. BAS completed the Steel Knight 23.2 post-LTI on AMALS and conducted turn-in to MEDLOG. HM3 Omana and HM3 Wright were selected to attend the weeklong PMR course. BAS conducted one TCCC-ASM course training four personnel. BAS said goodbye to HM2 Wiley and wished him well on his PCS.

For the month of February, BAS continued medical planning for upcoming MRF-D 24.3 deployment and provided medical support for (10) vehicle egress training courses and was able to rotate all their personnel do the same. Additionally, HM3 Choi provided medical support for the DAFF inspections. Supporting unit level training, HM2 Higginson provided medical support for the two weeklong Martial Arts Instructor Course and HM3 Floyd provided coverage for Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) exercise. HM2 Higginson, HM3 Acuna, HM3 Annor, HM3 Omana, and HM3 Wright attended the Enlisted Advancement Program in preparation for their upcoming advancement test. BAS conducted one TCCC-ASM course training five personnel.

During March, BAS continued its focus on medical and dental readiness. Advancement tests were administered for all eligible personnel. Final preparations for MRF-D deployment were made and uniform and gear inspections were conducted for all (12) deploying personnel. MRF-D 24.3 ADVON departed on 8 March with (1) personnel, Main Body 1 departed on 22 March with (8) personnel, and Main Body 2 departed on 24 March with (3) personnel.

Throughout this reporting period, the Battalion Surgeon and CLB-5 Corpsman provided daily clinical support to not only CLB-5 but also 1st Supply Battalion, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Maintenance Battalion, and CNATT.

RELIGIOUS MINISTRY TEAM

During the month of October, RP3 Gangapersad demonstrated a steadfast commitment to community engagement and unit support. RP3 Gangapersad efficiently organized eight hours of volunteer time with SMP, facilitating the involvement of four CLB-5 Marines in local school activities. Additionally, RP3 Gangapersad contributed to the success of the Battalion FEX by procuring and distributing health and comfort supplies, benefiting approximately 300 Marines and Sailors. Notably, RP3 Gangapersad completed a challenging 9-mile hike, exemplifying physical resilience. Moreover, RP3 Gangapersad's dedication to ceremonial duties was evident as she secured a San Diego Rabbi for the retirement ceremony of Gunnery Sergeant Northcutt and supported various unit events such as DRC movie night and CLR-1 Trunk or Treat.

In November, RP3 Gangapersad continued to uphold essential responsibilities within the unit, displaying versatility and reliability. Chaplain Ross Engel (LT) reported on 3 November and hit the ground running. His noteworthy contributions include participation in the USMC Ball, where he delivered the invocation. RP3 Gangapersad was hand-picked to represent the US Navy as part of the USMC Birthday cake detail, reinforcing the cohesion and traditions of the Navy and Marine Corps team. During Exercise Steel Knight

23.2, RP3 Gangapersad provided vital support by offering games, and comfort supplies. Chaplain Engel provided a field service for Marines in Yuma, AZ and transported a Marine experiencing a tragic and personal loss. The RMT was present to cheer on the CLB-5 football team at the annual Turkey Bowl event onboard Camp Pendleton, fostering camaraderie among unit members.

Throughout December, the RMT remained focused on enhancing unit readiness and morale. Both Chaplain Engel and RP3 Gangapersad completed Underwater Egress Training in preparation for helicopter transport for the upcoming MRF-D deployment. RP3 Gangapersad was promoted to RP2 on 15 December and embraced her new responsibilities. Finally, the RMT actively supported the DRC in the execution of the annual CLB-5 Holiday Party, Santa and Mrs. Klaus were present, along with games, and delicious treats to be enjoyed by the family and friends of CLB-5 Sailors and Marines, all of which contributed to a festive atmosphere, bolstering unit cohesion during the holiday season.

January was marked by extensive training and support to operational requirements. Notable endeavors included participation in Composite Training with I MEF, emphasizing interoperability and readiness for joint operations. Chaplain Engel played a pivotal role in providing unit level training on Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence Prevention, prioritizing the well-being and resilience of unit personnel. At the sudden and tragic death of service members spouse, the RMT provided immediate spiritual care to the family, providing the support necessary for the family to lay their loved one to rest. Additionally, Chaplain Engel provided support for a funeral at MCAS Miramar, exemplifying compassion and professionalism during solemn occasions.

The RMT continued to demonstrate proficiency and adaptability in February through a diverse range of training and support activities. Highlights included completing JLTV Rollover Training and hosting a pre-deployment brief for MRF-D 24.3, enhancing operational readiness and safety. Chaplain Engel facilitated a 5 Love Languages class for Marines and Sailors in relationships, with a total of 9 personnel participating in this uplifting and beneficial event. The RMT completed their mandatory CBRN training, ensuring that they continue to contribute to personal and professional development within the unit. Moreover, the RMT partnered with the DRC to organize several recreational events including the Barracks Bash and Field Meet, further fostering camaraderie and morale among unit members.

March marked a period of transition and deployment readiness for the RMT. Notably, RP3 Tivis detached from the unit and transitioned to the civilian sector. The RMT seamlessly integrated into deployment, arriving in Darwin, Australia. The RMT hit the ground running and the first week in country organized a house of worship shuttle service, affectionately called, "The Holy Hopper," which provided transportation support for weekly services at 12 different churches in the Darwin area for over 135 Marines and Sailors each week. Chaplain Engel delivered, by request, the invocation for the Australian Defense Force's (ADF) 1st Health Battalion Mess Night, receiving praise for his words of wisdom. Additionally, the RMT played a vital role in logistical operations, including unloading gear and establishing connections with ADF chaplain's "Padres" for upcoming exercises and opportunities for partnerships and interoperability moments, ensuring operational readiness and support for future missions.

DEPLOYMENT READINESS COORDINATOR

In October, the Deployment Readiness Coordinator (DRC) hosted a Spooky Movie Night for families providing movie style snacks for all who attended. Additionally, the battalion participated in the CLR-1 Trunk-or-Treat event hosting multiple trunks and providing kids with an additional trick-or-treating event. Continuing support to single Marines and Sailors, the DRC hosted a pizza night at the barracks following the completion of a battalion hike. With the Ground Equipment Staging Program forward deployed and the battalion preparing to deploy, the DRC hosted a Battalion Town Hall, with a

virtual option, to provide friends and families with updates and answer any questions on upcoming operational requirements.

With November marking the half-way point for the Ground Equipment Staging Program deployment, the DRC hosted the mid-deployment brief providing friends and families with updates while also providing tips for redeployment and re-integration. Additionally, it was during this time that the DRC reinvigorated the battalion arrive alive program, sourcing arrive-alive cards for each member of the command.

In December, following the completion of the battalion certification exercise, the DRC hosted a Breakfast with Santa, with both Santa and Mrs. Klaus providing children with gifts donated by Saddleback Church.

In February, the DRC hosted the Ground Equipment Staging Program return and reunion brief featuring MCCA. Additionally, the DRC hosted the CLB-5 pre-deployment brief featuring MCCA, education center, library, and Red Cross providing friends and family with critical information to ensure a successful deployment. In addition to supporting the numerous deployment requirements, the DRC hosted a sports day for barracks personnel providing Marines and Sailors with an opportunity to build camaraderie and engage in friendly competition at the barracks.

In March, the DRC was extremely busy coordinating the deployment and redeployment events for both the Ground Equipment Staging Program and CLB-5 as the Marine Rotation Force-Darwin Logistics Combat Element. Each event was supported with various resources and snacks making each event special for friends and families.

Throughout this period, the DRC hosted monthly coffee events to welcome new families, discuss upcoming events, and answer any questions.