Dear Families and Friends of CLB-7,

Our deployment is quickly coming to an end and I cannot put into words how proud I am of your Marines and Sailors. They all performed magnificently throughout this deployment. Every mission and task was accomplished in a professional, efficient and competent manner, and your Marines and Sailors have raised the standards of performance in combat for future Combat Logistics Battalions.

The Marines and Sailors of CLB-7 will be a part of Marine Corps history. They may not realize this fact now, but I promise they will in the future. The Marines and Sailors who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom 9.01 made tremendous contributions in the drawdown of equipment and forces while ensuring the continued development and success of the Iraqi Security Forces. This significant achievement was not an easy task, and CLB-7 Marines and Sailors rose to the occasion and exceeded all expectations.

As I have stated in previous newsletters, the success we achieved could not have been possible without the outstanding dedication and support from our families and friends back home. It was your steadfast patience, support, understanding and continuous morale boosts with care packages, letters, phone calls and e-mails to your loved ones that led to our exceptional performance. I owe each and every one of you my personal thanks and gratitude.

Many of your Marines and Sailors developed bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime. Whether they came from 29 Palms, Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, or anywhere from across the 50 states such as our Reservists and Individual Ready Reserves who augmented the battalion, the relationships will not end when we return. Combat deployments are an experience that cannot be duplicated by any other job in the world, and your Marines and Sailors will cherish these memories for years to follow.

Homecomings are a very exciting and special occasion for Marines and Sailors and their families and friends. I know the Family Readiness Officers at Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms are utilizing every resource available to ensure the reunion is well organized, joyous and special. I look forward to thanking each and every one of you when I return. I could not have asked for a better group of Marines and Sailors to serve with or a better family support network. This has been the most rewarding experience of my career, and I truly wish the battalion and our families and friends the best and offer my sincere appreciation for everything your Marines and Sailors have accomplished over the past 7 months.

Semper Fidelis,
Sekou S. Karega
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

CLB-7 Deployed Website:
Greetings,

OORAH! We are almost home and let me tell you this has been a GREAT DEPLOYMENT. The Marines and Sailors of this battalion have performed with the utmost professionalism. Their tenacious approach to providing support to all units within Area of Operations has earned them the respect and accolades from supported commands. The warriors of CLB-7 are some of the finest I've had the opportunity to work with. These Marines and Sailors can handle any situation. I have seen them heal, transport, repair, provide security, escort and create a "Team" that is the epitome of what Combat Logistics and Support is all about.

Our success is all because of you. Because of your loyalty and dedication to providing superb support to the Marines and Sailors of CLB-7, we were able to provide unparalleled support to all units within our Area of Operations. Throughout this entire deployment, the duties you performed back home have not gone unrecognized and each Marine and Sailor of this battalion truly appreciate you and the difficult part you play on our "TEAM". Again, you are and will forever be the key to our success...Thank you!

I opened this message with "We are almost home". Note the word ALMOST, because we still have a mission to complete until we are boots on ground next to you. Please continue to keep your warriors safe by not talking or discussing information in relation to flight dates, times or any information that could place your warrior in harm's way. You will know exactly when we get home, so I ask that you continue to show patience and communicate with your Family Readiness Officer. He will ensure you know when your warrior will be arriving to you. Remember! You are our key to success and safety.

See you VERY soon...Semper Fidelis, 1stSgt Singleton

A Disneyworld Reminder
Time is running out on this great offer from Disney World Resort. You only have until December 23, 2009 to take advantage of Disney's Armed Forces Salute. Active and Retired Military personnel may obtain ONE Complimentary 5 day Park Hopper Ticket. Along with the one free ticket for the member, you may purchase up to five, 5-Day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets (good for one theme park per day) for just $99.00 per ticket, tax not included.

Remember to reduce your vacation costs take a look at the web site for the military family resort (Shades of Green) located at Disney World Resort. www.shadesofgreen.org All tickets must be purchased and used before December 23, 2009.

Chaplain’s Corner-
MISSING THE POINT

Often a certain level of personal pride fosters itself when we receive an award, promotion, or certificate. Believe this or not, but it hasn’t yet been classified as ancient history the day I walked across the stage and received my Master's degree. However what I came to understand that day is just how much a person with an advanced degree “doesn’t” know. My condolences go out to those who reach this level and believe there is nothing more for them to learn.
You see the problem with knowledge and personal pride is this; it sets up a box we feel comfortable existing in and one by which we attempt to place God. But let me tell you most assuredly, God cannot be limited to any size box.

Some, in an attempt to massage their insecurities and maintain their need for control, quote verses like, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:5), because they actually believe they have God figured out. But look, if I in my limited mental abilities have God figured out, then God can’t be all that impressive. I think they are missing the point and as such let me illustrate. I hope this will make you laugh.

A Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the sacrificial bull into pieces and laid it upon the altar. Then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the bull on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room raised her hand with great enthusiasm, "To make the gravy!"

Close, but I think the little girl missed the point. Here is one more and no, this did not happen to me.

A young mother was trying desperately to get some catsup to come out of the jar as she prepared her daughter’s lunch. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year-old to answer the phone.

"Mommy, it’s the pastor, ”came the child’s response.

“Have him wait just a moment honey. I’ll be right there.” To which her daughter informed me...

"Mommy can’t come to the phone to talk to you right now. She’s hitting the bottle."

Again, wonderful story but I think she missed the point.

Well, I don’t want you to miss this important point. Yes, God is so far beyond my comprehension that I cannot understand him but I do know this, “He loves me and he loves me just as I am.” And here is the good news, he loves you also. He created you for the primary purpose of having a relationship with him and all you have to do to participate in that is to accomplish the work he requires.

“But Chaplain, what is the work God requires?”

Well, it is found in the New Testament book of John chapter 6. In verse 29 where Jesus says, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” (John 6:29)

“Okay, who did God send?”

The answer to that one is in John 3 verse 17, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)

“Okay, I’ve got that, but how does this apply to me?”

Here is the last one. It is found in John 1:12 and says, “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.” (John 1:12)

In conclusion, it would be a very sad thing to live one’s whole life and never accomplish the purpose for one’s existence. It would truly be a tragedy to miss the point. Do you get the point?

God bless,

LT Steven L. Roberts
CLB-7 Battalion Chaplain
Al Asad, Iraq
Headquarters and Service Company News-

Families and Friends of Headquarters and Service Company, having served alongside you during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) 9.1, was truly a rewarding experience. It is because of friends and family like you that we continue to serve our great Nation and Corps with pride. Your support made it possible for your loved ones to serve our nation with pride, while ensuring the safe return of all those deployed. We know firsthand the many challenges families face, while those near to us are deployed. For that reason, we say, “Thank you”, again.

Wherever life may take you, continue to support your Marine or Sailor, as they honor our Country with dignity, gratitude, and pride. For it is friends and family members like yourself that make our history, uphold our traditions, and who continue to give our great Nation the heartbeat and foundation to remain strong. You are the reason that the fathers, mothers, brothers, and sister continue to serve at will.

Best Wishes in your future endeavors both as part of the Marine Corps/Navy Family and life. Thank-you, for a job well done!

Remain Semper Fidelis,

Darius L. James       Adam E. Fraser
Commanding Officer    First Sergeant

Transportation Support Company News-

COMPANY COMMANDER’S COMMENTS-

Dear families and friends,

At last the end is in sight. We have completed a successful turnover with our counterparts from CLB-46 and are confident that they will carry on and complete the Marine mission here as consummate professionals. Our Marines and Sailors have done an outstanding job and are ready for some well-deserved time off after the deployment. We’ve had several Marines recently complete the Corporals Leadership Course (Cpl’s Welman and Taylor), have had Marines promoted to Corporal (Cpl’s Salinas, Steffany, Strickland, Tesnow, and Williamson), and have had many of our devil dogs and devil “doc’s” presented with various awards for professional and meritorious achievements. Hearty congratulations to all that have been promoted and recognized in the past month.

Upon our redeployment, many will return to their parent command, some will move on to new units, and others will leave the Marine Corps after completing their service. Regardless of where the future finds any one of us, we have all bonded at a deeper level than most will be able to recognize. In short, we’ve become a family that has supported each other through good times and bad and many will maintain a close relationship with their newfound brothers and
sisters for years to come. As an ad hoc family, each of you are in turn a part of our extended family and I want to thank you for all the support you’ve given over the past seven months.

Our deployment has had its up's and down’s, but fortunately we are bringing everyone home safely. For those units that we supported and that have supported us who had service members make the ultimate sacrifice, our hearts and prayers go out to their families, friends, and comrades in arms. Their sacrifice is testament to the adage “freedom isn’t free”, but their willingness to serve their country and the cause of freedom are proof of the diligence of America’s Armed Forces.

In closing, I want to leave you with a quote from Army Major McConnell who was killed in action in Viet Nam. Though written over 40 years ago and just prior to his death, these words carry a special meaning for those “left behind:

“Save for them a place inside of you and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go... And in time, when decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind.”

Semper Fidelis
Todd N. Paulson         Todd W. Kennedy
Captain, USMC           First Sergeant, USMC
Company Commander       Company First Sergeant

Maintenance Company News-

COMPANY COMMANDER’S COMMENTS-

Greetings one last time to all of our loved ones. The time has come and we are conducting our turn-over with CLB-46. I want to take a moment and thank you for all the support that you have provided the Marines of Maintenance Company. Your hard work and dedication from home has made this an enjoyable deployment. The Marines have continued to work hard and set our replacements up for success. Soon enough we will be home to enjoy some much deserved time off. Please remember as we close the book on another successful deployment, think about Operational Security. Flight dates and times cannot be passed over email or by phone. I would ask that you be patient and here in the near future you FRO should be calling you with the information. This has been an enjoyable evolution for all, and I could not be prouder of being in charge of such a fine organization.

COMPANY 1st SERGEANT COMMENTS-
I would like to take a moment and thank you for your support and well wishes throughout this entire deployment. The long hours and hard work that the Marines from Maintenance Company put in would not have been possible if it wasn’t for you back home.

Our Marines are super motivated as we wrap up another outstanding month here aboard Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. We started out the month with the promotion of some very deserving Marines:

Sgt Hinojosa
Cpl Johnston
Cpl Waddell
Cpl Correa
Cpl Hernandez A.

Then we ended the month by getting together as a company and competed against the battalion in a field meet. It was a great opportunity for the Marines to relax and enjoy themselves.

With the deployment coming to an end, the Marines are working extremely hard and sometimes throughout the night to execute a flawless turn-over with CLB-46. Their morale is high and we are very excited to be coming home. Be proud of your Marines for the work that they have done these last 7 months. Be proud of your Marines, they made a difference not only in this country but to the United States of America as well.

WORD FROM THE SECTIONS

ENGINEER MAINTENANCE PLATOON
OIC WO GILLASPIE

Greetings once again from Al Asad! The month we have long waited for has arrived! CLB-46 has arrived and we have been busy lately turning the shop over to them. Engineer Maintenance Platoon has also continued to provide aggressive maintenance to the units we support as they have for the last seven months. They have worked hard and I am proud of their accomplishments and the things they have learned. Your Marines are also excited about the fact that we will be reunited with our families soon and just in time for football season! The Marines of the platoon also participated in a field meet on the 20th of August providing for some serious entertainment. We also had a few Marines get promoted this month as well. Congratulations to GySgt Boyce and Sgt Rakestraw. Also congratulations to Cpl Murphy on his promotion Sept. 1st. We also had Cpl Sampson re-enlist as well. The Corps is proud to have you in its ranks!
Semper Fi!

MOTOR TRANSPORT MAINTENANCE PLATOON
OIC CWO2 D’TRINIDAD
Motor Transport Maintenance platoon time has come to an end here in Al Asad, the Marines are excited about the redeployment back home and they are conducting a changeover with Marines from CLB-46.

Lance Corporals Steven Waddell and Alejandro Hernandez were promoted to the rank of Corporal. MTM had 2 Marines dedicate their time to become better leaders. Cpl Dustin Kuehn and Cpl Francisco Garcia Lopez recently graduated the Corporals Leadership Course.

On August 20, 2009 all the MTM Marines competed in different events at the Battalion Field Meet. These events ranged from making a human bridge to a fear factor eating competition, the most pull-up competition and a final tug-o-war event were some of the events. This was a great morale booster since it reminded everyone that soon we will home. After the field meet we had time to enjoy some hamburgers and hotdogs.

To our Marines, Sergeant Jessie Dewitt and Corporal Camarillo happy birthday from all of us in MTM.

Hello from all the Motor Transport Marines. The Marines send this message: “Baby, we are coming Home!!!”

ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE PLATOON (OMP)
OIC WO TUCK

The Marines of Ordnance Maintenance Platoon (OMP) have consistently performing their duties in an exemplary manner. The platoon had a few promotions, on August 1st Cpl Hinojosa was promoted to Sgt and LCpl Correa was promoted to Cpl. We also had a couple of Marines, Corporal’s Schulz and Harrigan in S-6 Maintenance celebrate their birthdays this month.

OMP sent a few of our Marines home this month on the Advance Party to assist the preparations for the rest of the battalions return. The rest of the Platoon has been simultaneously providing support to all units in Western Iraq and preparing for turnover with CBL-46. Corporal’s Greco and Correa both attended Corporals leadership training and acquitted themselves well. Cpl Greco finished second in the class.

Most of the days here are filled with work but occasionally the Marines to get to have a little fun. The platoon had several marines participate in the BN field meet. All the marines were part of the Dizzy Izzy event. CWO Tuck, SSgt Crowe, Sgt Brown, and Cpl Estrada all participated in the human bridge event. LCpl Algeo participated in “Fear Factor”, Sgt Curtis was in the pull up event, and Cpl Estrada got wet in the sponge challenge. Know that your Marines have been acquitting themselves very well here and be very proud of them.

Security Company News-

Company Commander

Family and friends of Security Company, hello again. Our deployment is beginning to wind down here in Iraq. The Marines and Sailors are anxiously awaiting their return back home, but before they do I should tell you they did an outstanding job this deployment. We as a Company had zero mishaps and everyone is returning home safely. This is testament to the leadership of the young NCOs in the Company, keeping your Marines and Sailors engaged and ready for any mission that was thrown their way. Many of your Marines and Sailor’s hard work did not go unnoticed, throughout the deployment numerous Marines were promoted and many received various awards for their hard work. As I have told all of your Marines and Sailors, it was my honor serving with them, I hope to work with them some day again in the future, and
for the IRRs best of luck in your civilian line of work. I would also like to thank all of you for your support as we were deployed, from the packages to the letters, to taking care of everything back on the home front. In closing as your Marines and Sailors return home congratulate them for their hard work and superior achievements and enjoy your time together. Again it was my honor to serve with each and every one of your Marines and Sailors.

Semper Fidelis,
1stLt Hoertt

Recapping February to September 2009

From February to September, this has been an interesting and enlightening experience for our first time deployers and for our second timers and saltier Marines. We have all learned from the experienced Marines and will share soon be able to share our stories and with our “boots”. Over the past 7 months, Security Company has traveled thousands of miles and over hundreds of hours around all of our area of operations. Some of these areas have been as long as 2 day missions to Sahl Sinjar and as short as 2 hour missions to various checkpoints. Not one week has gone by without appointing a squad a new mission or task that has not been successfully completed. Our entire company has been outstanding at maintaining all our tactical vehicles which consist of the Mine Resistant Armored Protected (MRAPs) and Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements (MTVRs). Gear and personnel accountability kept Security Company squared away and exceptional due to the amount of hard work weighted on us. These small formations and punctuality have demonstrated that no mission will be left unaccomplished.

In addition to the everyday missions and the constant workload, weekly and monthly classes such as First Aid, Rules of Engagement, Escalation of Force, and others have been conducted to ensure that our Marines knowledge in the combat zone does not fray and also to keep them from getting complacent. Security Company has also had the opportunity to send some of our motivated Marines to various courses such as the Tactical Small Unit Leaders Course (TSULC), Female Search Team Lioness Program, Non-Commissioned Officer Suicide Prevention Course, IED Lane Trainers Course, and Corporal’s Course. These courses have been able to enhance these select Marines in different areas of operational specialties.

The end of our deployment has come without delay and all of our Marines in Security Company has been recognized for all their hard work and dedication to the Marine Corps. We have three of our most honorable Marines re-enlist while out here. Sergeant Brendan Colley, Corporal Ian Graichen, and Corporal Miguel Martinez are the fine Non-Commissioned Officers that we hope our junior Marines will emulate.

Security Company will soon be coming home to all of our families, friends, and loved ones from all over the country. Our close knit platoons have become each other’s family away from home although we come from 29 Palms, Camp Pendleton, and Camp Lejeune. This camaraderie has shown us the meaning of Esprit de Corps and will always be what keeps us glued together. We appreciate all the love and support from everyone on the other side of the world and will continue to serve you proud.

Engineer Company News-

August Birthday’s:

Staff Sgt. Terence C. Hubbard turned 32 on 6 August 2009.
Staff Sgt. Yorn Chesnutt turned 31 on 10 August 2009.
Sgt. Mario J. Gerenahall turned 27 on 31 August 2009.

August Re-Enlistments:
“Cpl Kevin B. Wilson took the oath of enlistment on August 4th 2009.”
“Cpl Nicolas Metcalf took the oath of enlistment on August 10th 2009.”

Congratulations and Semper Fi to both Marines.

Birth Announcements:

Soon-to-be Dads!

COMPANY COMMANDER’S COMMENTS-

Dear Families and Friends,

The deployment is coming to a close. As we prepare ourselves for our return home I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for the support you've shown us over these past months.

I know it has been hard on many of us and many of you, stressful phone calls (or no phone calls at all), long missions, and stressful times at home have changed us all. Time will work these out, I left on my first deployment after living with my spouse for about six weeks....Now coming home from my second deployment after almost 5 years of marriage I think this reunion will be a little different, but we (as will you) reconnect and establish a new status quo.

Now I know many of you are thinking "my loved one has been away 7 months, I cannot wait to get them and do... (Insert something fun here)," but the Marine Corps frowns on fun, so be ready for a week or so of decompression classes, supply, and administration paperwork before you and your Marine can have an excellent time that you both deserve, it's all part of the deployment experience.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Marines. You have all performed excellently. Many Commanders’ happiest days are when they receive the guidon, and the day they give it up. In the case Engineer Company that is not true. From arriving in Kuwait to living in tents the last few nights all you have kept my morale high. Sharing jokes and hardships, and always doing your best. Thank you for the outstanding memories of the Marine Corps, I wish you all the best of luck in the future regardless of where you chose to go.

Thanks,

-Captain Gregory F. Moore
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:
Helpful information & links in support of family readiness

**Dates to note:**
**Upcoming Events for CLB-7**

Wednesday, 4 Nov – CLB-7 Marine Corps Birthday Ball
Primm Valley Resort and Casinos

Links you can use for the upcoming holidays:
http://www.ftdfloristsonline.com in the US

Our Battalion website is located at the link below. Not all information is accessible to civilian computers, but updates are visible and resource links will be of help.


**OTHER HELPFUL LINKS**

http://www.hugahero.com/

http://www.military.com/spouse/cf/0,,cf CAA 111407,00.html

Click on the links below
Connections You Need:
Providing support & services for parents, spouses, children & friends of our Marines and Sailors.

American Red Cross
Give an Hour
Military OneSource
STOMP
MC & CS
Navy Marine Corps Relief Society
United Through Reading - Home