



# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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'Excellence, Innovation & Quality' for the Marines and Sailors of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group

MAR. 30, 2012

Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

Petty Officer 1st Class Rosalinda Finnerty, the lead petty officer of readiness for Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, shoots an azimuth during a land navigation course at Camp Davis aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 22.

## Straight Shot

CLR-2 hosts land navigation course

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Photo by Sgt. John E. Jackson

Sgt. Jacob Neuberger, a motor transport operator with General Support Motor Transport Company, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), speaks to Afghan children in Musa Qal'ah, Afghanistan, March 16. The Marines with GSMT Company have had the unique opportunity to work and interact with Afghans throughout their seven-month deployment.

## *Reserve Marines come together, accomplish mission in Afghanistan*

**Sgt. John E. Jackson**  
*1st MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Of the more than 200 Marines that make up General Support Motor Transport Company, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), all but six are Reserve Component Marines.

The Marines in the company have vari-

ous military occupational specialties and come from multiple Marine Corps Reserve sites throughout the U.S.

“The company started out with about 220 Marines from 34 different reserve stations,” said Lt. Col. David Gibbs, the MSB 11.2 commanding officer. “They came together prior to deploying at Quantico Viper [Enhanced Mohave Viper] and have been performing brilliantly ever since.”

Typically, most active duty companies are able to work together as a unit for up to a year prior to deploying. GSMT Co. had just a few months.

Having the opportunity to train together as a company at EMV allowed the Marines to build confidence in one another and confidence in the company as a whole.

“EMV definitely helped us to build unit cohesion,” said Capt. Robert Moore, GSMT Co. commander. “The Marines were able to work together, [physically train] together, eat together, live together and just get to know one another.”

Throughout the company’s predeployment training, leaders emerged to ensure the Marines were prepared to deploy.

“The command team was just phenomenal at making sure the company was well trained,” Gibbs said. “They have outstanding leadership from the company commander to the first sergeant to the [staff noncommissioned officers] and [noncommissioned officers]. Everyone’s personalities meshed together well, making a very balanced group.”

At the conclusion of EMV, GSMT Co. deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, to begin an approximate seven-month deployment. While deployed, the company strives to always say ‘yes’ to other units in Helmand province.

“Simply put, our mission is to not say ‘no’ to any unit who needs support,” said Moore, a native of Atlanta, Ga. “We have done base support, supported coalition forces and done heavy equipment support as well. Our mission is to help everyone succeed out here.”

The company’s mission includes conducting vehicle maintenance for their battalion and other units in the area. The Marines also provide heavy equipment support to the Sort Lot on Camp Leatherneck. Additionally, the company is responsible for escorting Afghan truck drivers carrying fuel to forward operating bases in Helmand province.



**19 Mar. 2012** - A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 25 admitted culpability to purchasing spice at a gas station in Jacksonville, when a pipe was discovered in his possession during a search at the Ammunition Supply Point. The Marine was apprehended, processed and released to a unit representative.

**22 Mar. 2012** - During a command authorized search of his vehicle, a Marine with 2nd Maintenance Battalion was found to be in possession of a package of spice, which was subsequently seized as evidence by military police. The Marine was apprehended, processed and released to a unit representative.

2D MLG BLOTTER

# 'He Goes the Extra Mile'

## *CLB-8 Marine masters trade as motor transportation operator*

**Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – To love your job is to know your job, and one Marine takes that seriously.

Lance Cpl. Donald R. Killian, a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, is an expert in his trade and had the opportunity to be the first Marine to haul a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement MK-31, with an M-970 trailer attached, to shore from a Landing Craft Utility.

The training operation during which this feat took place was held along a stretch of beach in Morehead City, N.C., Feb. 6.

"We were doing beach landings as training and I was the first to take the MK-31 to shore with the trailer attached to it," said Killian.

Killian was one of two Marines on the exercise who could have taken the truck off the amphibious vehicle, so he did his job and maneuvered the MTRV MK-31 to shore with precision.

"Lance Cpl. Killian has a great work ethic," said Sgt. John Kovack, a platoon sergeant with CLB-8. "When you give him a task, he doesn't stop until it's done."

Kovack added the quality of work Killian does is exceptional.

"[With] his quality of work, you don't

have to supervise it," Kovack said. "He goes the extra mile to make sure the task is done."

The Canton, Penn., native worked in agriculture growing up as a young adult acquiring skills many people don't normally learn throughout their lives. The familiarity he gained working with those systems gave him the love for what he does day to day in the Marine Corps.

"I farmed and worked at a body shop while I was in high school," Killian said. "I grew up around big trucks and farm equipment. It's all like second nature to me and I

really enjoy it."

That joy for the job is obvious when Killian speaks about his future plans. He plans on owning a wrecker to work with later on in life.

"I hope to go to [Vehicle System

Wrecker School] soon. I spent the majority of my last deployment doing [vehicle] recoveries and I really enjoyed it," he said. "I'm just going to continue to do my best as a [vehicle] operator and gain as much knowledge and experience as I can. Hopefully one day down the road I can get out and have my own wrecker service."

Killian plans on taking part in any upcoming deployment, so he can gain more experience and use what he learns to his advantage once he begins to work toward his personal goals.

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**"When you give him a task, he doesn't stop until it's done."**

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- Sgt. John Kovack

## WARRIOR of the WEEK



**LANCE CORPORAL  
DONALD R. KILLIAN**

**JOB:** Motor Transport  
**HOMETOWN:** Canton, Penn.

**WHAT REGULATION  
WOULD YOU CHANGE  
IF YOU COULD?:**

"I'd have Marines roll their sleeves back up. It looks better."

**MOST MEMORABLE  
MOMENT IN THE CORPS:**  
"Getting hit by an Improvised Explosive Device in Afghanistan. You usually don't forget events like that."

**RECENT MOVIE SEEN:**  
"Tucker and Dale Versus Evil."



Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

Sgts. Elizabeth Urbaz (left) and Amanda King (right), Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, plot a point on a topographic map during a land navigation course at Camp Davis aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 22. Headquarters Company, CLR-2, held the land navigation training to familiarize its Marines and Sailors with a lensatic compass and plotting points on a topographic map.

# Map It Out

## CLR-2 conducts land navigation training

**Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Marines and Sailors attached to Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, conducted a land navigation course at Camp Davis aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 22.

The purpose of the training was to ensure troops are capable of navigating their way through any clime or place using only a compass, protractor and a map of the area.

Prior to the day's hands-on training, the company held classes to refamiliarize stu-

dents with the lensatic compass and how to plot points on a topographic map.

"Everyone needs to know how to read a map," said Staff Sgt. Forrest Allen, the regiment's data section chief. "Batteries run out."

After refreshing the basics of navigation, teams of two began at one of several designated starting points and shot an azimuth to their first set of coordinates. An azimuth is an angle measured in a clockwise direction from a north base line.

Each destination was marked with a small flag, with a different word displayed on each. Marines were required to write

the word down, as proof they were actually there, before moving to the next point.

Where they started would determine the order they should have the words, indicating they went to the correct points.

"We want them to be able to read the map, use the compass and guide through terrain," Allen said. "But we also want them to build their confidence in doing all these things."

Students had three hours to navigate the grounds in Camp Davis and find eight points.

"Everyone did well," Allen said. "We didn't have as much time as we planned, but the average points found were three. If they had the full amount of time, they were on track to find all or at least most of the points."

The Marines and Sailors with Headquarters Co. put boots to the dirt and proved they could subtract technology from the equation and effectively maneuver using just a compass, protractor and map.

## Hard Corps Fact 2ND SUPPLY BN.

Second Supply Battalion was activated Oct. 13, 1950 as an element of 2nd Combat Service Group, Service Command, Fleet Marine Force. From Sept. 2011 to March 2012, the unit served as Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2 in support of International Security Assistance Force operations in Afghanistan.

# The Long Haul

## Marines escort Afghan drivers, get fuel to the fight

**Sgt. John E. Jackson**  
*1st MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Thirty five civilian trucks carrying approximately 340,000 gallons of fuel left the outskirts of Camp Leatherneck to deliver fuel to forward operating bases in northern Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 13.

In addition to the fuel trucks, Marines and Sailors with General Support Motor Transport Company, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 1st Marine Logistics

Group (Forward), accompanied the Afghan drivers to ensure the fuel was delivered without incident.

“Our mission is to provide an armed escort for the local nationals,” said Staff Sgt. Justin Baldwin, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, GSMT Co. “We provide fire support to ensure the trucks make it to the FOBs unharmed.”

The Marines of 2nd Platoon have been conducting fuel escort missions since September and have successfully delivered more than one million gallons of fuel throughout Hel-

mand province.

Escorting fuel tankers on routes monitored by the enemy is no easy feat, but that’s not the only hurdle the Marines have to overcome.

“One of the main challenges we face during these missions is the mechanical readiness of the local nationals’ trucks,” said 1st Lt. Mariela Pena, 2nd Plt. Commander, GSMT Co. “The Marines conduct maintenance inspections on the trucks prior to the mission, but there are still issues that come up.”

Whether the trucks get a flat tire or have engine problems,

Marines ensure the vehicles are able to get to their final destination.

“The trucks always seem to break down at the worst possible moment, but the Marines are there to keep the convoy moving,” said Pena, a 34 year-old Walnut Creek, Calif., native. “We will be taking fire, but the Marines will dismount to get the trucks moving again and to keep the local nationals safe. Their courage is amazing.”

Working with local civilians has been an experience the 2nd Plt. Marines have enjoyed.

“It’s been incredible,” said Pena. “We get to know the drivers, and they get to know the Marines. It makes for a really good experience for us all.”

The Marines and 35 local Afghans returned to Camp Leatherneck on March 18 after successfully delivering more than a quarter of a million gallons of fuel to five forward operating bases. This escort marks one of the final missions for the GSMT Marines. They will return home soon after an approximate seven-month deployment.

“This run, like all of them, was outstanding,” said Baldwin, the 29 year-old Meriden, Conn., native. “This is the best platoon I have ever worked with. Everyone works together.”

“The mission is to deliver fuel and keep the local Afghans safe.” Pena said. “The Marines understand this and get the mission accomplished every time.”



Photo by Sgt. John E. Jackson

1st Lt. Mariela Pena, center, 2nd Platoon Commander, General Support Motor Transport Company, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) explains the rules and regulations through an interpreter to 35 local Afghan truck drivers outside of Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 11.

# CLB-8 makes history with long-range convoy



Marines and Sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, drive to Patriots Points Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston, S.C., March 15. The troops drove more than 1,000 miles during a six-day exercise in order to test the battalion's mission essential tasks, which consisted of basic warrior skills, recovery procedures, distribution and repairs, as well as evacuation techniques and motor vehicle operations.

Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

## *Equipment delivered to Albany for repairs*

**Cpl. Bruno J. Bego**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Nearly 60 Marines and Sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group conducted a first of its kind multistate long-range convoy March 12 - 17.

The purpose of the exercise was to test the battalion's mission readiness, which consisted of basic warrior skills, recovery procedures, distribution and equipment repairs, as well as evacuation techniques and motor vehicle operations.

"The idea came up last summer while we were still in Afghanistan," explained Lt. Col. Michael E. McWilliams, the CLB-8 commanding officer. "We were talking about how we can approach training and start to prepare our Marines for convoy operations."

The battalion was tasked months later with transporting gear to Marine Depot Maintenance Command, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., for repairs. Leadership viewed the mission as the perfect venue to hone their convoy skills.

"We took that opportunity to integrate training into a real life mission," McWilliams said. "This is the first time CLB-8 has done a convoy training exercise of this magnitude."

The troops drove more than 300 miles to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., to visit their fellow logistics Marines with Combat Logistics Company 23 during day one of the six-day exercise.

"I think that stop in Beaufort gave the [Marines and Sailors who participated in the convoy] an idea of what other Marines in the MLG are doing," McWilliams said.

After the visit they drove to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., where they spent the night.

The convoy continued their journey the next morning with a 250 mile drive to Albany, where they spent the next day loading and off loading gear.

Day four was an early day for the Marines and Sailors who woke up before sunrise to continue their route to Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum at Charleston Harbor, S.C. While there, the troops exhibited their vehicles and gear to the public, and talked to visitors.

"I think this exercise was a great opportunity to see where we are at as far as combat readiness goes," said Cpl. Benjamin C. Christopher, a motor vehicle operator with CLB-8. "We had the chance to make sure everybody was doing their job correctly."

Each individual had the opportunity to do a different job each day during the convoy.

"We kept rotating during the exercise," Christopher added. "I think every single person got something out of this exercise."

"Some of us had to drive a certain number of miles for licensing purposes. Others had the chance to talk on the radios and command a vehicle," he said. "Everybody received some experience training, which is going to help them during future operations."

The Marines and Sailors successfully concluded their exercise, traveling more than 1,000 miles through three states within their timeline and safely returning to Camp Lejeune.



Cpl. Timothy R. Lewing (right), a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, ensures his truck is properly loaded during a stop on a long-range convoy aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., March 14. The 1,150-mile trip from Camp Lejeune to Albany and back was able to net 2nd MLG more than \$10,000 in vehicle part and delivery savings.

Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

## *CLB-8 saves budget-conscious Corps thousands*

Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – What began as a routine training evolution for Combat Logistics Battalion 8 ended as a substantial money-saving venture for the Marine Corps as a whole.

In addition to the obvious training value, a 1,150-mile round-trip long-range convoy from Camp Lejeune to Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., was able to net 2nd Marine Logistics Group more than \$10,000 in delivery savings.

More than \$800,000 in mission-essential gear, to be distributed throughout II Marine Expeditionary Force, was backhauled through internal resources, vice the alternative of having the equipment shipped to the unit via government-contracted assets. Through the latter option, the Marine Corps would accrue additional freight and fuel costs to be paid out of operational funds.

Marine Corps Logistics Command furnished the surplus gear at no cost.

The budget-conscious force saw the convoy as the perfect opportunity to do right by the taxpayers' dollars, noted Master Sgt. Keesha Davis, the G-4 supply chief for 2nd MLG.

"We wanted to piggyback with them and see what kind of money we could save while also testing our materiel distribution operations," said Davis, of Sumter, S.C.

"It was a true coordinated effort between G-4, Logistics Command in Albany, and other units," she said.

Gunnery Sgt. Terry Shepherd, the assistant G-4 supply chief for 2nd MLG, explained all of the parts and equipment brought back are each essential to the daily operations of the Marines here. Items including headlamps and oil filters – or Stock Listing 3 gear, as they are referred to in Marine Corps vernacular – ensure each tactical vehicle is safe and properly equipped.

"Looking at the budget, with the restraints and cuts, this mission was a great success," said Shepherd, a native of Atlanta. "This gear will keep the warfighter moving and at minimal cost."

"The Marine Corps scored big with this one."

The first of its kind in recent history, missions like these may prove critical in eliminating dependence on contractors in some cases. Considering the benefits of pairing the training of Marines and conservation of funds, Davis said 2nd MLG will continue to pursue these types of operations in the future when practical.

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