



# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

MAY 18, 2012

A Marine with Bridge Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group provides security during a training exercise at a Military Operations in Urban Terrain site aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 9.

Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

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Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Master Sgt. Paul Vanek, a combat engineer with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, salutes one last time at his retirement ceremony at the Beirut Memorial site in Jacksonville, N.C., May 11.

## '... With a heart of gold'

*Texas Marine retires after more than 20 years of service to Corps and country*

**Cpl. Katherine M. Solano**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Enthusiastic, respectful, mentor, intuitive, role model and friend are words that cannot begin to describe one combat engineer who retired from the Marine Corps at the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, N.C., May 11.

His peers, supervisors and subordinates found no shortage of qualities to list and positive characteristics to highlight when

speaking about Master Sgt. Paul Vanek, an engineer with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, before, during and after his retirement ceremony.

The seats were filled, a standing-room only crowd had formed, the band played on, and flags flapped, at times unrestrained, in the strong winds, as if too excited to be still. The air itself held an electric feel, ripe with more than 20 years of love, support, memories and hardships.

Marines, Sailors, veterans, civilians,

strangers and family alike congregated at the respected memorial site to congratulate Vanek on a career well-served. The tears flowed and there was no shortage of hugs.

Everyone present had a story or a joke to share, each one more unique than the last.

Sgt. Timothy Adamovage, an engineer with 8th ESB, said Vanek always put his own interesting spin on stories himself.

"He always added a grunt at the end, or some off-the-wall noise," Adamovage said with a laugh as he tried, but admittedly failed, to replicate the nasal sound Vanek is known for among peers.

Getting serious, Adamovage described Vanek in a hushed, almost reverent tone.

"You look at him and just know, that's a Marine right there," he began. "That's a real guy that's done some things. You could

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## 2D MLG BLOTTER

12 May 2012 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion approached the gate and the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected emitting from his breath. The Marine submitted to a series of field sobriety tests and subsequently submitted a sample of his breath for chemical analysis. This resulted in a blood alcohol content reading over the legal limit and the Marine was apprehended, processed and released to a unit representative.

14 May 2012 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 6 was observed as he placed a wallet in his pocket and proceeded to exit the Main Exchange without rendering payment. The Marine was apprehended, processed and released to a unit representative.

# Full-Time Marine, Part-Time Firefighter

*Garrison earns GEICO award for outstanding service*

**Cpl. Bruno J. Bego**

*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C.** – For more than two centuries Marines have built the reputation of being professional warriors who are capable of performing and succeeding at everything they do.

Contributing remarkably to that legacy is Gunnery Sgt. Donald L. Garrison Jr., the headquarters company first sergeant with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, who received the Government Employees Insurance Company Military Service Member of the Year award for 2011 during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., April 30.

To be considered for the award, a nominee's package needs to include a biography, reason for nomination, photograph

and an endorsement letter from the highest military authority on the assigned installation, according to the GEICO web page.

The St. Cloud, Fla., native was nominated by his command due to his ongoing contributions to his community and accomplishments while serving as part of the active duty ranks, according to the report submitted for his award.

"Garrison is very active in the community by serving as a volunteer firefighter," said Lt. Col. Kevin R. Scott, the 2nd Maint. Bn. commanding officer. "It was very easy for us to nominate him for the award because of his character and his commitment to the U.S. Marines Corps and the community."

The GEICO Military Service Awards Program recognizes service members in the following three areas: drug and alcohol abuse prevention, fire safety, and traffic

safety and accident prevention.

Garrison received the award for his volunteering efforts with the Half Moon Fire Department in Jacksonville, N.C.

During 2010, he responded to more than 107 incidents. His actions included saving the lives of citizens trapped in vehicles and preventing the loss of countless dollars in personal property during major flooding in Jacksonville.

"The Marine Corps is full of outstanding people and we are very fortunate to have Gunnery Sgt. Garrison in our battalion," Scott said. "When I think about him, I think of a professional who is committed to excellence."

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**"When I think about him,  
I think of a professional."**

- Lt. Col. Kevin R. Scott

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Garrison also conducted 40 hours of classroom instruction and 80 hours of practical application for volunteers on a quarterly basis. In addition, he was the Rookie Firefighter of the Year for 2010 and Firefighter of the Month in March of the same year.

"The reason why we nominated him for the award is because of his active involvement in his community and the Marine Corps," explained Capt. Michael Gasperini, the executive officer for 2nd Maint. Bn. "Not only did he do his job during the day as a Marine, but there have been many nights where he would have to go out and respond to a call."

Garrison says he is very thankful for the recognition. He also said he will continue his efforts to provide the best service to his community and to the Marine Corps wherever he goes.

"I am very pleased and overwhelmed that the command would pick me out of all the Marines here for this award," Garrison concluded. "It was a very good surprise when I found out I was receiving it."

## WARRIOR of the WEEK



**GUNNERY SERGEANT  
DONALD L. GARRISON**

**HOMETOWN:**  
St. Cloud, Fla.

**OCCUPATION:**  
Company Gunnery Sergeant

**WHAT DO YOU FOR  
YOUR UNIT:**  
"Take care of Marines."

**IF I COULD MEET ANY  
MARINE IN HISTORY,  
IT WOULD BE :**  
"Chesty Puller, because he  
was *the* man."

**IF I WAS COMMANDANT  
FOR A DAY, I WOULD  
CHANGE:**  
"Sleeves down in cammies."

Marines with Bridge Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group clear a stairwell during a training exercise at a Military Operations in Urban Terrain site aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 9.

Photo by  
Cpl. Katherine M. Solano



# It's Getting Real

## *MLG Marines prepare for battle with MOUT training*

**Cpl. Katherine M. Solano**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Marines with Bridge Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group spent three days conducting extensive training exercises at a Military Operations in Urban Terrain site aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 8-10.

Noncommissioned officers with the company took the opportunity to train their subordinates in classroom and hands-on combat operations based on their own experiences.

According to the field exercise commander, Cpl. David Veneziani, the corporals in the company received guidance to train the younger Marines in combat operations. Beyond that guidance, they were given free reign over how, when and where they wanted to do it.

The result of the NCO brain-

storm was the three-day exercise, beginning at a training site where long periods of classroom instruction were given. The Marines slept outdoors, then woke up early to hike to their next site.

“It was 5.9 miles out here and now they’re just getting sped up on dynamic entries and dismounted patrols through urban terrain,” said Veneziani. “What we are going to do next is send them through a brief, give them a scenario and let them punch out as squads to complete the mission. This will go into tonight, give them some nighttime operations . . . to make it as realistic as possible.”

Veneziani and the other instructors had high expectations for the Marines. They expected them to complete their mission based on the two days of knowledge and tactics they covered.

“I’m going to expect them

to know their [casualty evacuation procedures] and to work as a team, taking the periods of instruction they learned in day one and two and putting it in a cumulative event,” stated Veneziani.

He elaborated on the importance of all the aspects of the training, beyond just learning the combat tactics.

“The junior Marines are in fire team leader positions right now,” Veneziani continued. “Just because they aren’t in that position at their shop doesn’t mean they won’t be put into that position. They need to know how to take care of their Marines, how to keep accountability of stuff, and how to carry themselves, not just in a tactical scenario but as an NCO. I want them to be striving to be that next pay grade.”

One of only two staff NCO’s involved with the training exercise described why the combat operation training was essential

to combat engineers.

“We have a lot of deployments where a lot of our Marines get pulled to other regiments and other battalions,” explained Staff Sgt. Philip Thornton, the maintenance chief for Bridge Co. “It’s better to give them a little heads up, a little hands-on training before they get stuck in the real scenario. Instead of learning out there, they can learn it here.”

With the implementation of combat scenarios, leadership skills, team-work exercises and everything else that comes with the field environment, the Marines with Bridge Co. seemed to value and appreciate the rare opportunity they were given to train at MOUT town.

“It’s going well, even though the Marines are hot and tired and it’s only going to get worse as the day progresses,” Veneziani concluded. “But, they’re learning and they’re invested.”

# Spring Festival

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** — Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Logistics Group had the opportunity to spend Friday afternoon with their family and friends during the Spring Festival aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 11.

The event was organized to commemorate Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

"This took about six months of preparations," explained Darlene M. Kern, the family readiness officer for Combat Logistics Battalion 22, 2nd MLG. "We planned to accommodate about 10,000 people."

The organization was a team effort between family readiness officers and commands across the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

"2nd Marine Division sent some assets, as well as [2nd Marine Aircraft Wing], for our static display of vehicles and aircraft," Kern said. "We also have some vehicles from units across the [2nd MLG]."

Pfc. Dakota R. Cannon, an engineer equipment operator



Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

**Master Sgt. Andre S. Mayhue (right), the current operations chief for 2nd Marine Logistics Group, observes and narrates as Marines and Sailors compete in a tug-of-war event during a 2nd MLG family day aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 11.**

## 2nd MLG celebrates Military Spouse Appreciation Day

with 2nd MLG, participated in the family day as one of the Marines in charge of explaining some of the vehicles.

"I am in charge of showing the [Tractor, Rubber-Tired, Articulated Steering, Multi-purpose vehicle]," Cannon said.

"Even though this is a common piece of equipment that can be seen in the civilian companies, people are still interested in hearing what we do with them."

Cannon expressed people were enthusiastic to learn about the equipment and hear what

Marines had to say.

"I am really glad families have an opportunity to see what we do," Cannon said.

The static display of military vehicles and aircraft was one of many other attractions offered for the general public at the event.

There were also inflatable games for children, a singing contest for single Marines and Sailors, a medical static display focused on new spouses and a regimental tug-of-war competition.

The family day was a way for the 2nd MLG command to recognize families and friends of service members for their tireless support.

"We are hoping everybody enjoys themselves today and had a good time with their families," Pamela S. Jude, the FRO for Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd MLG concluded. "We put this event together thinking about everybody in the unit ... whether you are a Marine, Sailor, or a spouse we are all part of it, we are all one big family."

## RETIRE,

*continued from Page 2*

tell even without talking to him; you can just look at him and know that's a guy you want to be like in the Marine Corps."

Words like 'natural leader' and 'always honest' are often used to describe retirees at their respective ceremonies. Phrases like 'true patriot,' 'completely selfless' and 'war hero with a heart of gold' are a little less common, unless you are at Vanek's ceremony, where all three of those were used by multiple Marines to describe him. There was an influx of unique descriptions of the en-

thusiastic, unwavering optimist.

"I don't know many people who have given so many years of their life, and are still willing to give even more for their country and friends and family, and even people he didn't know," stated Adamovage.

Subordinates and superiors alike agreed, Vanek is not one to put himself first.

"Marines are known for their toughness, but what makes him different is his unselfishness and his caring for others," said Capt. Seth Dewey, the operations officer with 8th ESB. "He really does have a heart of gold. Before he's anything else, before he's a Marine or a warrior, he's an outstanding human being. He's willing to

do anything for anybody."

Dewey described Vanek as a true optimist who always put a positive spin on everything.

"Today is a sad day for the Marine Corps because we are losing a quality individual, but at the same time he's touched a lot of people so there should be a lot of little Vanek's running around in the Corps with just a little less rank on their collars," said Dewey.

Adamovage seems to be one of those 'little Vaneks,' even by his own admittance.

"He's a good role model," he concluded, as the band began its song and the throngs of people moved to fill the ceremonial area to capacity. "If I was to be anyone in the Marine Corps, I'd be him."



Click the DVIDS icon for more Spring Fest content.



# Prevention

## Mosquito testing keeps diseases at bay

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2010 an estimated 216 million cases of malaria occurred worldwide and 655,000 people died from the disease.

Sailors with Preventative Medicine Unit, 2nd Marine Logistics Group are working diligently to ensure diseases, such as malaria, do not threaten Marines and Sailors aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Throughout the year, PMU performs many tasks to keep the living conditions on base at a high standard. They inspect chow halls, barracks and working facilities for health hazards.

Complaints about pests are constant with the warm weather and rising number of insects. The heavily wooded and wet areas aboard the base are also conducive to a thriving mosquito population.

On May 8, Sailors with PMU ventured across the base to plant traps and conduct their research of the installation's mosquito population.

There haven't been many outbreaks of malaria in the U.S. compared to other stricken places, but it doesn't stop the unit from doing all they can to keep it that way.

"We don't have any cases in the area," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles A. Hill, a preventive medicine technician with PMU.



Sailors with the Preventive Medicine Unit, 2nd Marine Logistics Group place traps along a tree line aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 8. Throughout the year, PMU performs many tasks to keep the living conditions on base at a high standard.

Photo by  
Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

"We still do regular trapping and testing of mosquitoes from around the base."

Camp Lejeune has a large quantity of grassy and moist areas, which is why it is important for traps to be spread out across the vast installation, explained Hill.

"We spread the traps out as far as we can," he said. "We put them on Midway Park, Onslow Beach, around the Naval Hospital, and a lot more places on the base, so we can get a wide variety of mosquitoes."

There are many types of mosquitoes – with the most common breeds being Culex and Aedes mosquitoes – and the trapping process gives PMU a chance to test a large number of them. In the peak mosquito season, traps are regularly found with 300 to 400 mosquitoes each, said Hill.

"When we get the traps back, we get a good idea of which mosquitoes are in the

area," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin Munger, a preventive medicine specialist with PMU. "We can better identify the ones that are harmful to people, and conduct population control."

The traps are collected 24 hours after they are set out. They set the traps with carbon dioxide and lights, which attract approximately 80 percent more mosquitoes, said Hill.

"We don't only rely on how many traps we lay out, we rely on the carbon dioxide and lights to help almost double the amount of bugs," Hill said. "Malaria is a serious disease, so we need to do the best we can to keep it away from the people on base."

The traps are rarely seen by personnel on base; Sailors with the PMU do their best at hiding them in the tree line. If a person happens to run into the mosquito trap, the PMU strongly encourages people to leave them alone.

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