

Preparing for a fuel run

Marines inspect Afghan drivers, trucks



A Marine with Security Platoon, General Support Motor Transport Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), scans an Afghan fuel truck driver in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, May 13. The Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment is a system used to identify individuals through a database. The equipment can take a fingerprint, scan an iris, and note facial features.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Fuel is a mission essential commodity that can affect operational tempo, and when fuel levels at forward operating bases run low, Afghans are often contracted to refill their tanks.

Marines and sailors with General Support Motor Transport Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) prepped and screened local nationals who were selected to participate in a fuel delivery mission to northern Helmand Province, May 13.

Each local national passed an individual inspection that verified the driver was not a member of the insurgency, and each vehicle had to pass its own series of tests administered by the Marines.

“We go through and make sure there is no critical maintenance needed or damage to the truck,” said Cpl. Thomas Adams, quality control and modification noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Platoon, GSMT Co.

Before motor transport mechanics assessed the readiness of the fuel trucks, a separate inspection was conducted to check for contraband.

Cpl. Seth Sheppard, military police canine handler, Military Police Support Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force, inspected the truck with his military working dog, a Ger-

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Pick, Pack, Ship:

Marines support units across Helmand Province

Story by Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The Supply Management Unit aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, is home to more than 500,000 pieces of gear and supports 56 units throughout Regional Command Southwest.

Since arriving in Afghanistan last month, Marines with Storage Platoon, Supply Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) have helped retrograde more than 130,000 items back to the U.S.

While the SMU has played a significant role in the retrograde process, the lot is also responsible for supplying Marines throughout the area of operations.

“Our main focus is providing sustainment, and our secondary focus is the retrograde,” said Master Sgt. Cody Douglas, staff non-commissioned officer, Storage Plt., Supply Co. “Our goal is to be at 260,000 pieces for sustainment within the next six weeks.”

The unit has approximately 282,000 items of gear within the lot left to retrograde. After the goal is reached, the remaining pieces will be used for the sustainment of units operating in Helmand Province.

From uniform items to vehicle repair parts, Storage Plt. holds the gear until a unit requests a shipment. Across the lot are containers and bins holding items as small as AA batteries to larger items like engine blocks.

“My job is to pick, pack and

stow,” said Lance Cpl. Moises Vasquez, a warehouse clerk with Storage Plt. “I pick the requested items from their locations, pack [them] up, and make sure shipping and receiving gets it.”

The platoon uses the Storage Retrieval Automated Tracking Integrated System (STRATIS) to determine which items need to be pulled for each run. Using National Stock Numbers, the Marines locate the items throughout the lot and send it to shipping and receiving.

The platoon is broken up into four different sections that each hold different types of gear.

“When we get the gear from the different sections we make sure [they’re] the right items and the correct amount,” said Lance Cpl. Gabriella Gutierrez, a warehouse clerk in the Shipping and Receiving section of the platoon. “We also make sure [they’re] getting sent to the correct location.”

When the Marines receive the list of items to pull, the gear is picked based on the last part of the item’s number. Out of thousands of items, however, there are times when different pieces of gear will share the number.

“I check the nomenclature of the items my Marines pull because sometimes there will be multiple items with the same last four numbers,” said Cpl. Michael Belanger, a warehouse clerk with Storage Plt. “By physically checking the items it ensures the right gear is going out.”

Whether they are filling a unit’s request, or picking surplus items to retrograde to the U.S., Marines with Storage Plt. will continue their daily efforts to help accomplish the Marine Corps’ mission.



Photo by Sgt. John Jackson

Lance Cpl. Marla Crenshaw, warehouse clerk, Storage Platoon, Supply Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), enters National Stock Numbers into the system at the Shipping and Receiving section at the Supply Management Unit aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 17.

Lithium Batteries Banned

As of May 16, the United States Postal Service will no longer accept packages for shipment overseas that contain lithium batteries.

Tuition Assistance Class

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Joint Education Center offers College 101 class to inform service members about different college offers, both on and off base, as well as provide information about tuition assistance and how to use it. For more information, call the JEC at (760) 725-6660.

Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A basic rider’s course will be held weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both courses will take place at Bldg. 200071. For more information, call Kevin Frantum at (760) 725-2897.



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INSPECT

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man shepherd who is trained to identify dangerous substances by their odors.

Once the truck was cleared by the military working dog, Marines took flashlights and inspected the cab of each truck as well as any compartments located outside of the vehicle. They also checked areas under the truck and trailer where contraband could be hidden.

Though illegal items pose a significant risk to the success of the fuel mission, mechanical issues that could grind a tanker to a halt are just as problematic. As a prevention measure, the mechanics popped the hoods and checked each truck for any possible problems that could arise.

"If they are not mission capable, they don't go on the movement," said Adams. "If a truck breaks down, it stops the whole convoy. It slows down our mission and makes us vulnerable, so



A motor transport mechanic with General Support Motor Transport Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) checks the fluid levels on a truck during a vehicle inspection prior to a fuel run in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, May 13. During the inspection, the mechanics check all aspects of the truck to minimize issues that may arise during the trip.

we check everything before going out."

The mechanics inspected everything—tires, wheels, brakes, transmissions, frames, suspension and fluids—a full vehicle

inspection reduces the possibility of problems on the roads of Helmand Province.

Meanwhile, the Afghan nationals went through their own screening process. Using the

Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment, Marines with Security Plt. checked each driver in the system.

"The general idea of the HIIDE is to get every local national that Marines encounter into the system," said 1st Lt. Joe Ware, intelligence officer, 1st Main. Bn. (-) Rein. "The HIIDE allows us to identify any individuals linked to nefarious activity."

The HIIDE is used to take a photograph of a person. The machine scans their iris, facial features and their fingerprints. Then the person's information is run through a database to check if the individual is flagged for security reasons.

"It's an operational security measure, and it ensures that our Marines are safer because we aren't taking out bad guys on our fuel runs," said Ware.

After each driver and their truck was cleared, they prepared to fill up with more than 200,000 gallons of fuel before setting off on the mission to support those FOBs in need.

EOD Technician teaches life lessons during OSCAR training

Story and photo by Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — They spend time away from their families and friends; they wear the same clothes every day; they work seven days a week with no holiday breaks.

Whether it is an infantryman operating in a remote area of Afghanistan who frequently engages the enemy or an administrative clerk who works in an office at Camp Leatherneck keeping track of personnel in their unit, service members



Master Sgt. Jackie Canaday, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of 1st EOD Company, gives a speech to a group of deployed service members during Operational Stress Control and Readiness training at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 10.

who deploy to a combat zone are under a greater amount of stress than the average American.

"We are all different, and we all handle stress differently," said Master Sgt. Jackie Canaday, staff non-commissioned officer of 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Canaday spoke to a group of Marines and sailors during Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR) training at Camp Leatherneck, May 10.

Combat Operational Stress disorder is a risk all service members face. To combat the threat, the Marine Corps works to build resiliency in Marines and sailors to keep them mission-ready. Through programs like OSCAR, Marines and sailors learn to identify problems with stress as early as possible. Additionally, the program helps to fight the notion that personnel who ask for help are "weak."

"I am young; I am flawed, and I am susceptible to this," said Canaday during his speech to the group. "These are the lessons I have learned and what I am trying to teach you."

An EOD technician's job requires them to risk their lives every day. After coming home in one piece from each deployment, Canaday said he compared himself to his fellow brothers who returned to the U.S. missing limbs, or to those who were killed in combat.

"I told myself that I don't rate to have [Combat Operational Stress Disorder]; I don't rate to have problems or feel depressed," said Canaday.

He went on to explain what he felt like after a situation back home finally forced him to accept that he needed help.

"I hit a wall, and I hit it hard," said Canaday. "I don't care who you are — a grunt, a cook, a guy that works on the flight line 20 hours a day — there is a wall and we're all running toward it."

The experiences faced in a combat zone can sometimes make it difficult for service members to relate to people back in the U.S.

"The way you see things, the way you think about things, the way you react to things, is different," said Canaday. "Being out here changes you."

OSCAR training will remain a method to combat the effects of stress on Marines and sailors. As a brotherhood, troop welfare always comes first, and looking out for other Marines and Sailors is a top priority. Canaday went on to speak about the importance of getting past the wall of stress that builds up.

"It may not happen now, it may not happen tomorrow, it may not happen when you get back to the states, but that wall is coming," said Canaday. "And on the other side of that wall is the rest of your life."



GIVE HIM ONE!

CPL. BENJAMIN LEO

Story and photo by
Sgt. John Jackson
Public Affairs Chief

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – During high school, Cpl. Benjamin Leo knew he wanted something more. He wanted to feel a “sense of accomplishment.”

Upon graduation from The Charter School of Wilmington, in Wilmington, Del., Leo sought that sense of accomplishment by enlisting in the Marine Corps.

“I joined right out of high school,” said Leo, 20. “I wanted to make sure I got out there and did something.”

After completing Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and completing his military occupational specialty school, Leo headed to his first duty station – Iwakuni, Japan – as a Marine combat engineer.

“When I found out I was going to mainland Japan, I was excited,” he said. “The majority of the Marines who go overseas go to Okinawa [Japan], but I got to go to the heart of Japan.”

Leo was attached to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. Becoming a Marine and being stationed overseas were significant accomplishments, but he still was seeking more – he wanted to deploy.

“It came down the line that they needed combat engineers to deploy with 9th [Engineer Support Battalion],” he said. “When the opportunity presented itself, I jumped on it.”

In June 2011, Leo was augmented to 9th ESB and was assigned to 1st Platoon, Alpha Company. During the battalion’s predeployment training, he was able to work with the Marines and sailors in his new unit.

“At [Enhanced Mojave Viper] I was able to bond with the platoon,” Leo said. “We have a great group of Marines.”

Following predeployment training, the battalion headed to Hel-



Cpl. Benjamin Leo, (right), speaks with Lance Cpl. William Johnson, both combat engineers with 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) after completing a day of engineering operations at Forward Operating Base Shukvani, Afghanistan, May 18. Since arriving in November, the combat engineers with Alpha Co. have completed various engineering projects throughout Helmand Province.

mand Province, Afghanistan. Since arriving in November 2011, 9th ESB, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), has completed various engineering operations throughout southern Afghanistan. The engineers have built patrol bases to fortify the coalition force presence in the area. The Marines have also demilitarized other patrol bases that are no longer needed.

“Our battalion has definitely tackled a lot of engineer work. We have handled a lot of projects in the [area of operations],” Leo said. “We really support the infantry units exceptionally well.”

In addition to building and demilitarizing bases throughout the province, Leo and his platoon have also removed an old bridge after a new one was installed, built indirect fire bunkers to help protect service members, and much more.

“We have been going nonstop, and I love that about our unit,” Leo said. “We have done virtually everything that a combat engineer is supposed to do. I have been able to learn a great deal about my job here.”

In addition to becoming a more proficient combat engineer, Leo also had the opportunity to experience other tasks in a deployed environment. During convoys from one location to the next, Leo has been a driver, a gunner and most recently a vehicle commander.

Because of Leo’s strong work ethic and his desire to continue to learn, his superiors selected him to compete for a meritorious promotion to corporal. On Jan. 2, Leo was meritoriously promoted to his current rank.

“It’s nice to have the confidence of my leaders,” Leo said. “I was able to win the [meritorious promo-

tion] board and get promoted.”

With the battalion wrapping up their deployment and preparing to redeploy, Leo looks forward to returning to Delaware to see his family and friends.

“It’s going to be nice to take some leave and get back home and catch up with my family,” he said. “I really look forward to seeing them all.”

While deployed, Leo was able to gain more combat engineering experience; he was meritoriously promoted, but most importantly he found the sense of accomplishment he was looking for since high school.

“Last Christmas I was at home spending time with some friends and family. This Christmas I was on a ridge in Helmand Province standing post protecting my ‘brothers.’ It was a great feeling.”

CLB-4 assists realigning forces in Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
CLB-4 Public Affairs

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Service members attached to 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) provide tactical logistics support to adjacent units in Regional Command (Southwest) and assist in the Marine Corps' reset and reconstitution effort. Whether it is engineering operations, maintaining vehicles, supplying units or identifying excess gear, 1st MLG (Fwd) Marines and sailors get the mission accomplished.

One of 1st MLG (Fwd)'s combat logistics battalions currently deployed to RC(SW) ensures Marines and sailors in the northern portion of Helmand Province are equipped with the gear and equipment they need, while removing the gear and equipment they no longer use.

"[Combat Logistics Battalion 4] is serving as the distribution arm of the MLG," said Lt. Col. Adam L. Chalkley, commanding officer, CLB-4. Inherent in that is the transport of supplies and equipment from outlying [Forward Operating Bases] to [Camp Leatherneck]."

With coalition troops beginning to draw-down in the region, realigning Marine Corps forces is an important step toward meeting the security goals in Afghanistan.

"It has been challenging to balance reposturing our forces with conducting ongoing counterinsurgency operations and the transition to a security advisory role ... but the Marine Corps has been incredibly aggressive in meeting ... goals for reposturing," said Chalkley.

On May 1-6, Alpha Company, CLB-4, worked to retrograde equipment and supplies from Patrol Base Habib in CLB-4's most recent effort to support the realignment of forces.

"The PB Habib mission was to pull out [2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment] assets from the PB in preparation for the withdrawal of



Lance Cpl. Travis M. Stewart, motor vehicle operator, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), tightens the chains holding down a Multi-Mission Vehicle at Patrol Base Habib, May 5. The MMV was one of the pieces of equipment that was retrograded by CLB-4 from PB Habib in preparation for the departure of Marines with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment from the patrol base.

[2nd Bn., 5th Marines] from that area," said Staff Sgt. Charles E. Weatherly, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, Alpha Co., CLB-4. "We also delivered [supplies] to Forward Operating Base Edinburgh and Combat Outpost Shir Ghazay during the [combat logistics patrol]."

Moving forces out of a patrol base or forward operating base is a complicated process that requires a significant amount of coordination, cooperation and planning between the involved units, said Weatherly.

CLB-4 provided the heavy and medium-lift capability to the equation, paving the way for final withdrawal preparations and the departure of 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, said 1st Lt. Margaret S. Adams, executive officer, Alpha Co., CLB-4.

"Our role in this capacity [as the distribution arm] allows the maneuver elements of RCT-6 to continue to focus on counterinsurgency and security operations in cooperation with Afghan National Security Assistant Forces," said Chalkley.

According to Chalkley, CLB-4 will continue to facilitate the new posture of RCT-6 as 1st MLG (Fwd) and other Marine Corps forces draw down in the coming year.

"All of the units [in the area of operations] are going to have to support each other as we reposture our forces and prepare for the withdrawal of Marines," said 1st Lt. Benjamin J. Gutek, platoon commander, 3rd Plt., Alpha Co., CLB-4. "We are going to be [demilitarizing] more [bases] as the deployment goes on."



Tactical vehicles with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), kick up dust during a combat logistics patrol to Patrol Base Habib in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, May 4.

Improved Ribbon Bridge

7th Engineer Support Battalion conducts IRB training

Story and photos by
Cpl. Jennifer Pirante

CAMP PENDLETON, - Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted improved ribbon bridge training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 14. The training familiarized Marines with the engineering and logistical procedures of assembling and maneuvering the bridge with heavy cargo.

The IRB is an improved version of the standard ribbon bridge with the capability to support transportation of heavy military loads across rivers and small bodies of water. The new bridge is able to cross waters with currents of approximately 8 feet per second.

"This is new equipment," said 1st Lt. Devin Delaney, Bridge Company commander. "The old equipment didn't have the same hauling capacity. You had to use more bays to house the same amount of equipment. These have a higher capacity and displace more water to put larger vehicles on there."

Marines received first-time, hands-on experience during a construction training exercise in February. Since then, combat engi-



Marine combat engineers with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group offload a logistics vehicle system replacement during improved ribbon bridge training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 14.

neers have been training to become more efficient with the equipment.

Lance Cpl. Jeff Collins, combat engineer with Bridge Company, 7th ESB, said the bridge was assembled by combat engineers for training. Marines transported

two logistics vehicle system replacements.

Marines used three bridge direction boats for support. Two boats were directly attached and used to accelerate and maneuver the bridge. The bridge is directed by a

Marine designated as bridge master who communicates and directs where to go.

Currently, only 7th ESB and 8th ESB, 2nd MLG, at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., have and train with IRBs.



Pfc. Charles Redman and Lance Cpl. Alexander Krieger, combat engineers with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, tighten a rope during improved ribbon bridge training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 14.



Lance Cpl. Brenden Koehn, combat engineer with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, tightens a rope during Improved Ribbon Bridge training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 14.

One stop morale shop:

Warfighter Exchange Services Team travels throughout Helmand Province

Story and photos by
Sgt. John Jackson
Public Affairs Chief

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – “Whenever anybody sees the PX truck, that is all you hear about – people saying ‘Oh, the PX truck is here,’” said Lance Cpl. Cody Turner, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion. “It’s definitely a morale booster for all the Marines at the [Forward Operating Bases].”

Forward operating bases, patrol bases and combat outposts are widely spread throughout Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and many service members – like Turner, who is currently at FOB Shukvani – do not have the luxury of a Post Exchange. Without access to a permanent PX, acquiring a small “taste of home” can typically only be achieved through care packages.

Luckily for the service members deployed to remote locations, the Warfighter Exchange Services Team travels throughout the area of operations to ensure the Marines and sailors are able to purchase some “morale boosters.”

“Our mission is to provide for the guys on the front lines and the outlying PBs and COPs who don’t have a PX at their location,” said

Sgt. Nathan Rogers, a Marine Corps Community Services Marine and member of the WES Team. “We get them the basic items they need and the items they want.”

WES Teams, which consist of anywhere from two to eight Marines, complete multiple missions while moving throughout the battlespace. The teams consist of at least one MCCS Marine to run the PX and one disbursing Marine to ensure the service members have access to cash. Additionally, postal Marines are often times attached to the WES Team to bring mail and pick up packages that are then sent home.

The Mobile PX

Managing a traveling store is not easy. The MCCS Marines are constantly shopping, stocking, sorting and selling.

The process starts when the Marines prepare to leave Camp Leatherneck and head to a FOB or in some cases multiple FOBs. The Marines first have to stock their mobile store, which is a large container that is typically moved from one location to the next via seven-ton truck.

“Typically a unit will email us a list of items they want or request,” said Rogers. “We then go to the PX [on Camp Leatherneck], pull the items from the warehouse. We then come back to our compound and pack up the container.”



Sgt. Christopher Sherrill, (right), tosses Sgt. Nathan Rogers, both Marine Corps Community Services Marines and members of the Warfighter Exchange Services Team, a box of snacks to stock their mobile PX at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 22. Whether the WES Teams travel to larger forward operating bases where several hundred service members are stationed or they travel to smaller patrol bases where only a handful of Marines are, the WES Team Marines take pride in knowing they are providing a morale boost for fellow deployed service members.

Once the MCCS Marines have their mobile stores stocked with drinks, snack foods, hygiene items, electronics, magazines and more, the Marines are attached to a combat logistics patrol that is headed to the FOB in need.

“The container will get loaded up on a seven-ton, and we will catch a patrol out to their position,” said Rogers. “Once we get there, we just open it up like a regular store that was there permanently.”

Disbursing

Having a mobile store visit a remote FOB in Helmand Province is a great luxury for the service members deployed there, but without access to cash the store is useless. That is where the disbursing Marines come in to play.

“Basically, we follow the PX team,” said Sgt. Mario Sanchez, a disbursing technician with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “We provide support for them, so when Marines come out, they can pull out cash from their paycheck and have money to spend on the truck.”

While on a WES Team mission, the disbursing technicians take down information from service members

who would like to get cash. Once the correct information is given, Marines are able to take an advance on their upcoming paycheck.

“A lot of these Marines – especially at the smaller bases – they don’t really have a lot of things, so when the PX truck comes here it’s a great morale booster for them,” Sanchez said. “So the opportunity for them to take out money and for me to be able to give them that money, it really makes a difference for them.”

Whether the WES Teams travel to larger forward operating bases where several hundred service members are stationed or they travel to smaller patrol bases where only a handful of Marines are, the WES Team Marines take pride in knowing they are providing a morale boost for fellow deployed service members.

“I enjoy it because of the sense of gratification I get from the Marines,” said Sgt. Christopher Sherrill, a MCCS Marine and member of the WES Team. “The Marines really appreciate it. We are able to take stuff out to them that they wouldn’t be able to get anywhere else.”



Sgt. Mario Sanchez, a disbursing technician with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), counts money to give to a Marine at Forward Operating Base Shukvani, Afghanistan, May 18. While on a WES Team mission, the disbursing technicians take down information from service members who would like to get cash. Once the correct information is given, Marines are able to take an advance on their upcoming paycheck.

Marines implement recycling program, save battalion thousands of dollars

Story and photos by
Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
CLB-4 Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Belk, a motor vehicle mechanic with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), came up with a plan to help his battalion save money in a combat zone through recycling.

Belk's idea was to implement a system that function tests dead tactical-vehicle batteries. Under the new system, each spent battery that passes the function test is then re-charged and re-distributed throughout the battalion for use in their vehicle fleet.

"This is [Belk's] brainstorm. He came up with the idea and [gathered all of the necessary equipment]," said Cpl. Edgar E. Aguilar, non-commissioned officer in-charge, CLB-4 Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point, Support Company. "The program has saved [CLB-4] over \$120,000 so far on purchasing new batteries."

Prior to the implementation of the recycling program, all dead batteries were delivered to the Camp Leatherneck Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point Office for proper disposal, said Aguilar.

"The value of the program is that it saves money for the battalion," said

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Troy C. Havard, maintenance officer, Support Company, CLB-4. "It is also friendly to the environment since it keeps us from having to dispose of the batteries."

The battalion's motor transportation Marines now deliver expended batteries to the CLB-4 Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point, but instead of disposing of them, the batteries are given new life. The drained batteries are examined for visible defects, and if found to be in good condition, they are recharged by one of the two charging systems, said Aguilar.

Belk said the battalion's maintenance Marines had battery chargers they used to test batteries on tactical vehicles when they came in for maintenance work.

"I used to work in the maintenance bay," added Belk. "I knew they had them, and I knew we could use them [at the CLB-4 Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point] for a recycling program."

According to Aguilar, the CLB-4 Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point Marines ensure the re-energized batteries maintain their charge by testing them for proper function before distributing them for use in the battalion's fleet of vehicles.

"We measure the voltage of the batteries after they have been charged ... if they meet a certain requirement,



Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Belk, motor vehicle mechanic, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), adjusts the leads while testing batteries at the CLB-4 compound on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 20. The batteries are discarded if they do not hold a certain voltage for one day.

we separate them and leave them for a day," said Belk. "I measure them after that, and if they are still holding the charge, they are good to go."

Batteries that do not properly maintain a charge are delivered to the Camp Leatherneck Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point Management Office for disposal, said Belk.

Belk's recycling program not only

saves the battalion money and helps the environment, but provides a good example for other Marines.

"The battery recycling program is a shining example," said Havard. "No one told them to get it done. They recognized the need for the program, identified what it took to put [the recycling program] into place and implemented it."



Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Belk, motor vehicle mechanic, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), attaches leads to a dead battery at the CLB-4 compound on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 20. The battery, which had been drained of power during tactical logistics support operations, was recharged as a part of the battalion's battery recycling program. "The battery recycling program is a shining example," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Troy C. Havard, CLB-4 maintenance officer. "No one told them to get it done. They recognized the need for the program, identified what it took to put [the recycling program] into place and implemented it."

Chaplain's Corner: A DUTY TO REMEMBER

Story by Navy Lt. Jason Gregory
CLB-1 Chaplain

Memorial Day initially began in northern states to honor Union troops who died in the Civil War. However, by the end of the 1870s, the concept was embraced by southern states as well. Speeches, which once followed partisan and geographic lines, were expanded to honor the dead of both the blue and the gray, as the line between friend and foe began to blur. The first date was May 30, chosen specifically because it did not commemorate any major victory of the Union or Confederacy.

Yet, the holiday became more widespread after WWI, in order to commemorate American military members in all wars. In 1971, Congress officially adopted the last Monday in May as "Memorial Day." Alas, the date was chosen simply to ensure a three-day weekend.

I have recently returned from a deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. My bat-

alion was fortunate enough not to sustain any combat casualties, but as the news shows on a daily basis, the area is obviously still fraught with danger. During my ministry at the Army's Combat Surgical Hospital at Camp Dwyer, I saw good men whose lives were irrevocably changed. Moreover, service members of all branches continue to lay down their lives. For many, it is easy to allow those stories to become "white noise," but we are approaching a time of remembrance in our country; a time when what may seem distant should be at the forefront of our minds.

This holiday weekend should mean more than BBQs, the Indy 500 and the beginning of summer vacation season. The purpose is for us to remember the many men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. But of course, memory is a luxury only afforded to the living. Therefore memory carries with it a collective duty to ensure that sacrifice is not forgotten.

So on this Memorial Day, I ask you to take



a moment to pause, to remember and to honor the generations of military men and women who have upheld the banner of freedom. These were people not unlike any of us, who carried with them hopes and dreams of what their lives would be. Yet those aspirations were cut short in order to forge a world where we could hope and dream.



Photo by Sgt. John Jackson

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Magana, a combat engineer with 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), breaks away rock and dirt around an old culvert system on Forward Operating Base Shukvani, Afghanistan, May 9. The combat engineers with 1st Platoon are wrapping up their approximate six-month deployment to Helmand Province after completing a variety of engineering operations.

Photos from around 1st MLG



Photo by Sgt. John Jackson

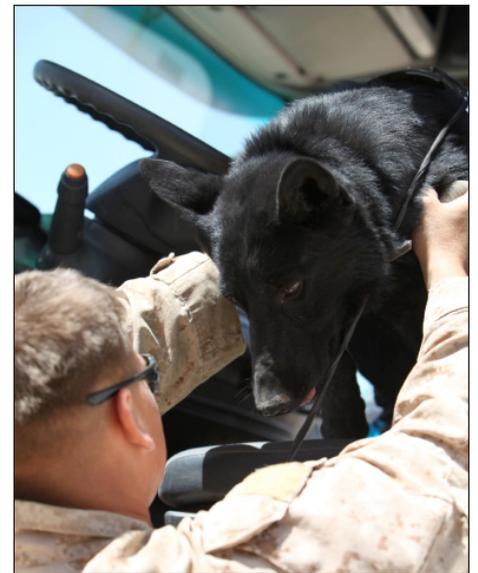


Photo by Sgt. Michele Watson

(ABOVE) Cpl. Seth Sheppard, military police canine handler, Military Police Support Company, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, lifts his dog, Fenji, out of the cab of a truck during a vehicle inspection prior to a fuel run in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, May 13. The military working dog is trained to detect certain odors that could indicate a threat to American forces.

(LEFT) Lance Cpl. Michael Hamilton, a warehouse clerk with Storage Platoon, Supply Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), labels items for retrograde at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 17. The Marines with Storage Plt. support units throughout Regional Command Southwest with gear requests as well as assist with retrograde operations.