

Embedded Partnering Team in action

Embedded Partnering Team works hand-in-hand with Afghan National Army to prepare for smooth transition



Story and photos by
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

CAMP GARMSER, Afghanistan
– With coalition forces reducing their footprint in Afghanistan, adviser teams continue to prepare the Afghan National Army for security responsibilities here.

Eight Marines and one corpsman with the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) work daily with ANA soldiers of the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade at Camp Garmser, Afghanistan, to improve their logistical operations.

Since arriving in April, the CLB-5 EPT has taught multiple courses to help create a capable, independent organization. From combat life saving courses to combat vehicle operators training to live fire weapons ranges, the EPT strives to offer as much instruction to the ANA as possible.

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Staff Sgt. Yobany Flores, motor transport maintenance advisor with the Combat Logistics Battalion 5 Embedded Partnering Team, observes an Afghan National Army soldier during a live-fire weapons range, May 29, at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan.

CLB-4 supports Operation Branding Iron

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

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan
– Marines and sailors with 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), provided sustained logistics support to

Regimental Combat Team 6, north of Musa Qal’ah, May 27-June 11, in support of Operation Branding Iron.

The platoon transported supplies and equipment to and from a rearming, refueling and resupply point (R3P), as well as provided troop transport and vehicle recovery capabilities.

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An M1A1 Abrams tank with Alpha Company, 1st Tank Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, patrols through the desert north of the Kajaki Dam, May 31.

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IMA team keeps the mission going in Afghanistan

Story and photo by
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Staff Writer

FORWARD OPERATING BASE EDINBURGH, Afghanistan – The ability of the Intermediate Maintenance Activity to quickly fix broken trucks keeps Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5 in the fight.

Getting a damaged truck to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan for repair and then back to its original unit can take weeks. To expedite this process, a detachment of maintenance and supply Marines is positioned at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh and runs one of four IMA lots in Helmand Province by receiving broken vehicles, fixing them and returning them to their operators in just a day or two.

“The biggest threats out here are [improvised explosive devices],” said Sgt. Nicholas Orwig, maintenance chief, IMA Detachment, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) at FOB Edinburgh. “We fix the trucks as fast as we can and put them back on the road as soon as possible.”

Members of the IMA lot at FOB Edinburgh support 2nd Battalion,

5th Marines as well as all other military units aboard the FOB and its surrounding area.

“Our average turnaround time is two and a half days which is amazing,” said Staff Sgt. Melquides Montalvo, detachment chief, IMA Detachment, 1st Main. Bn. (-) (Rein.) “We see a lot of battle damaged [mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles] that need axle and [suspension part] replacements. We usually keep a good stock of those parts handy so when the trucks come in they can be repaired in a day.”

Without the IMA lot at FOB Edinburgh, time would be lost transporting broken equipment to Camp Leatherneck.

“We’re talking about weeks for the maintenance turnaround if the trucks had to go all the way to Leatherneck,” said Montalvo. “If we have the parts here, the truck can be repaired and given back to [2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5] within a couple days.”

The team is composed of generator mechanics, motor transport mechanics, refrigeration unit mechanics, heavy equipment mechanics and heavy equipment operators. Though

they come from an array of job fields, their goal and motivation is the same.

“We all support the area of operations,” said Lance Cpl. Sterling Stroud, an engineer equipment mechanic, IMA Detachment, FOB Edinburgh, 1st Maint. Bn. (-) (Rein.) “I love my job. Being able to get dirty taking out parts and replacing them to give back a working truck to its operator helps ensure mission accomplishment.”

As the senior Marine in charge of the detachment, Montalvo attributes a large part of the unit’s high morale to seeing the fruits of their labor.

“Back at Pendleton, you fix things, but you never see the way you impact the Marines,” said Montalvo. “Here on deployment, when they do the work, they are able to see the end results of their efforts. When the Marines show their appreciation for getting their trucks returned quickly or getting their air conditioning units fixed, it strengthens the morale of my guys.”

With this as the source of their motivation, the small detachment works well together and gets the job done efficiently.

“This is the A-team,” said Montalvo. “These guys have exceeded my expectations with the quality of their maintenance as well as their initiative. The [Non Commissioned Officers] take charge, and they’ve put me out of a job.”

Despite spending seven long, hot days a week working together non-stop, the Marines still enjoy each other’s company during downtime.

“We have pretty good camaraderie,” said Stroud. “We have barbecues and play football and volleyball. It’s a good group.”

Whether it’s a personal air conditioning unit or a military vehicle that needs repair, the IMA team will continue to support FOB Edinburgh servicemembers with their array of individual skills, doing their part to keep the mission going.



Cpl. James Nunez, welder, Intermediate Maintenance Activity lot, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) at FOB Edinburgh welds part of a battle damaged mine roller, June 9.

HAPPENINGS

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, on and off base, as well as providing 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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TEAM

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“When we first got here, we hit the ground running trying to help out with everything we could,” said Gunnery Sgt. Earl Delack, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the CLB-5 EPT.

The 5th Kandak is one of the ANA units in Helmand Province that is rated as independent.

“They are able to go out and operate individually without support from Marines,” said Delack. “They can run convoys back and forth to the other kandaks and provide logistical support. A lot of the other kandaks are still operating with Marines, but this group is able to conduct missions independently.”

As a logistical support kandak, the unit is broken down into sections. Each section head has a Marine or sailor EPT counterpart to help operations run smoothly. From headquarters, communications and maintenance sections to transportation service, preventive maintenance and medical sections,

each area has a Marine or sailor to provide guidance when requested.

“The interaction is great,” said Staff Sgt. Harry Petit Homme, the Headquarters and Service, and Transportation Services mentor on the EPT. “These guys are pretty good on their own; we’re just here to give them that extra boost. We try to help them out as much as we can because at the end of it we’re all going back home, and they are all going to stay here.”

Though the ANA still faces big challenges, they continue to do their best with what they have.

“They try to take care of whatever they have right now,” said Petit Homme. “... [T]hey want to do their job right.”

To minimize issues with downed vehicles, the EPT created a driving course the ANA now teaches to help drivers improve their capabilities and reduce mechanical issues. Transmissions are a common maintenance problem because not all the drivers are proficient at driving a vehicle with a manual transmission.

Additionally, the EPT conducts live fire ranges on a weekly basis



Petty Officer 1st Class Otto Giron, the medical advisor with the Combat Logistics Battalion 5 Embedded Partnering Team, observes a medical course with the 1st Brigade, Afghan National Army at Camp Garmser, Afghanistan, May 30.

with the ANA, firing rocket propelled grenades, crew-served weapons and rifles to improve their accuracy.

“In this program, we will plan for our future,” said Lt. Col. Amanullah Khobani, commander of the 5th Kandak.

The EPT and ANA working together daily helps strengthen rela-

tions and sets up Afghanistan for a smooth transition when coalition forces leave, as well as a brighter future for the citizens of the nation.

“I enjoy what we’re doing here because I see how these people live,” said Petit Homme. “If we can improve their livelihood -- if the EPT can help - I enjoy being a part of that.”

Drone offers revolutionary capability for logistics community

**Story and photo by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer**

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marine Corps infantry units serve at a multitude of bases, posts and camps throughout Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and logistical support is needed for each and every location.

Until recently, combat logistics patrols were the primary method of delivering supplies such as food, water and gear to some of those remote areas. Marines would pile into dozens of trucks loaded down with cargo and spend hours maneuvering through rough terrain with the threat of enemy contact to reach their destination.

The Cargo Resupply Unmanned Aircraft System is a revolutionary capability that can help to save lives, redirect efforts and more efficiently support the war fighter. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), commonly referred to as a drone, is a platform that could significantly impact how logistics support is provided throughout the battlespace.

The Kaman K1200 UAV of-

ficially replaced all convoys that provide water to Combat Outpost Rankel, June 2. Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) is responsible for all combat logistics patrols in southern Helmand Province.

“That convoy is extremely difficult; the terrain is the roughest out of all our routes,” said Capt. Robert Hillery, operations officer, CLB-5, 1st MLG (Fwd). “It’s a five-hour trip just to get there, and that’s only if nothing goes wrong. The UAV took ten minutes to arrive at Rankel.”

In addition to the lengthy trip, the terrain also frequently caused damage to the trucks.

“We can’t support the retrograde without our trucks up and running,” said Gunnery Sgt. Kallan Chaloupek, unit movement and control center chief, CLB-5. “The fewer miles we’re putting on our vehicles, the more time we have to invest in maintenance.”

The UAV’s expedience makes it a preferred method for delivering small loads that are needed immediately.



The unmanned aerial vehicle’s expedience makes it a preferred method for delivering small loads to forward operating bases in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan.

“It can get critical supplies to destinations that are difficult to get to on the ground,” said Hillery. “It’s a huge leap forward for the logistics community.”

Although the UAV cannot carry as much weight as a convoy can, other benefits provided by the aerial lift makes it a desirable platform.

“We can move a lot more water on the convoy, but when you start talking about time, space and distance, if you were able to cycle enough systems, you can easily move more water in the same amount of time just using more loads,” said Lt. Col. Rob-

ert Meade, commanding officer, CLB-5. “And you never have to put a Marine on the road.”

Ultimately, the aerial deliveries could help to save lives by keeping Marines off roads laden with improvised explosive devices. With the Marine Corps shrinking its footprint in CLB-5’s area of operations, the UAV water drops to COP Rankel currently free up combat logistics patrols to assist with the retrograde process.

“There is a large amount of equipment and vehicles that need to be retrograded out of the battlespace as units draw down,” said Chaloupek. “There’s not really a break for anybody.”

Only two KMAX 1200’s are used in Afghanistan by Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2 at Camp Dwyer. This time is considered a test run for the UAV platform.

“It’s a great capability,” said Hillery. “Based on its performance between now and the end of VMU 2’s deployment, the Marine Corps will analyze it and determine if it will become [permanent].”

“Cheaters of Death” conduct change of command

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Since June of 2010, he had commanded the Cheaters of Death into various battles and built on the already established legacy of 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

After two successful years leading 1st Med. Bn., Navy Capt. Richard J. Jehue transferred all duties and responsibilities as the battalion commander to Navy Capt. James A. Letexier here, June 13.

“A mentor of mine once told me that ‘time and tide wait for no one.’ Thus it’s my time to depart the pattern,” said Jehue. “However, I stand before you as the luckiest person in the world; because I have the honor of commanding the greatest battalion, in my opinion, of the 1st MLG.”

According to a letter from Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, 1st MLG commanding general, Jehue has effectively led the battalion with its Shock Trauma Platoons, Mobile Trauma Bays and Forward Resuscitative Surgery Systems in combat, to provide world-class health care to deployed Marines and sailors.

“Rich [Jehue], you’ve been a driving force behind multiple process improvements and tactical initiatives in the Marine Corps Health Services Support System. Your influence spanned beyond your command in areas of innovation, best practices, and producing modern training technology in Forward Resuscitative Surgery and emergency care in support of our Marines and sailors in Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom,” Broadmeadow wrote.

During Jehue’s tenure, the battalion has received back-to-back Navy Surgeon General’s Blue H and Navy Golden Anchor awards, Broadmeadow stated.

“These are testaments of your dedication to health promotion and personnel retention excellent. You have left a legacy that will forever be chronicled in the annals of 1st Medical Battalion,” Broadmeadow wrote. “Karen and I wish you and Denise fair winds and following seas in your next journey.”

As Letexier assumed duty as the commanding officer for 1st Med. Bn., Broadmeadow welcomed him



Navy Capt. Richard J. Jehue (right) passes the battalion’s colors of 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group to Navy Capt. James A. Letexier, signifying the transfer of all duties and responsibilities as the battalion commander during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 13.

and his family to 1st MLG.

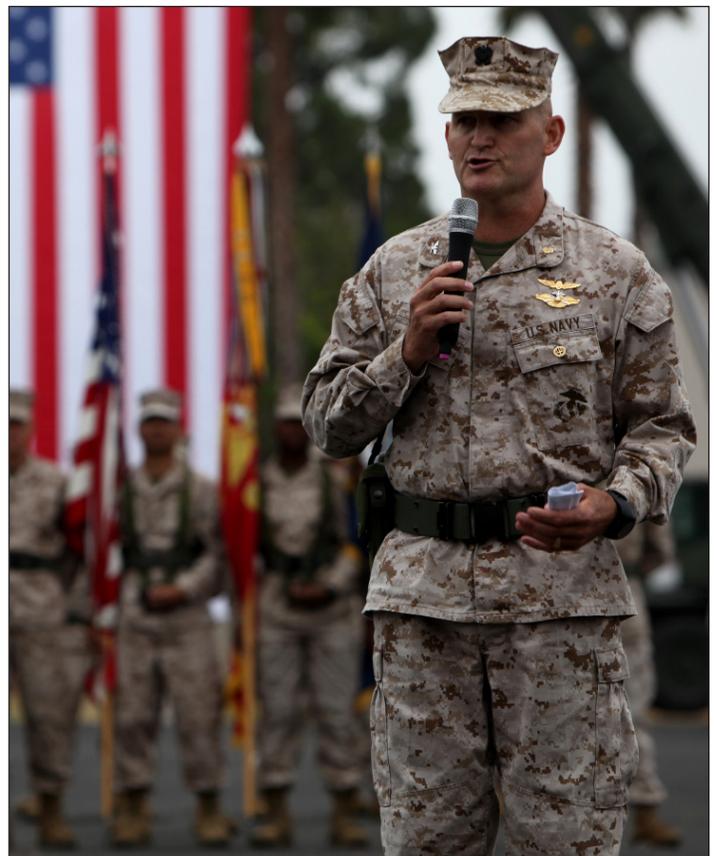
“Jim [Letexier], welcome to the West Coast Marine Ground Task Force. Your 37 plus years of Navy and Marine Corps service have prepared you well for this important command,” said Broadmeadow. “You’re the right leader at the right time. Karen and I welcome you and Judy to the MLG team as we continue to serve this great nation.”

Letexier said he looked forward to serving with the men and women of the battalion. He addressed the service members during the ceremony.

“It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your new commanding officer,” Letexier said. “I want to say thank you for your courage and the willingness to serve in the face of danger; for your professionalism in garrison and deployed, and taking care of our families.”

Letexier closed the ceremony by assuring his service members of his commitment to them as their commanding officer.

“My commitment to you is 24/7,” he said. “I will make every effort to move our battalion in the purposeful direction, and to provide the tools necessary to accomplish our mission.”



Navy Capt. Richard J. Jehue, outgoing commanding officer for 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, talks to guests during the battalion’s change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 13.

OPERATION

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“Our role is to provide direct tactical logistics support to [2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6] in support of their operations,” said Capt. Donald L. Hotchkiss, company commander, Alpha Co., CLB-4. “We provide a reach back capability to transport critical classes of supply and essential equipment in order for the battalion to continue sustained combat operations.”

Marines and sailors with 2nd Bn., 5th Marines used the R3P site to rest and refit during the operation.

“The R3P site serves as a forward supply point in immediate proximity to the forward lines of troops,” said 1st Lt. Benjamin Gutek, platoon commander, 3rd Plt., Alpha Co., CLB-4. “We were able to transport supplies ... rapidly and accurately because we were in such close proximity.”

This mission marks the first time during the deployment that CLB-4 dedicated an entire motor transportation platoon with internal command and control, security, and recovery capability, directly to an infantry battalion in support of a named operation, said Hotchkiss.

The CLB-4 Marines and sailors adjusted to change supply and equipment needs quickly to match operational requirements.

“The needs of the infantry consistently changed as the operation progressed and it is important for us to be flexible to meet their needs,” said Gutek.

The Alpha Co. Marines ensured they met the logistical support requirements of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. They overcame every obstacle to maintain a high tempo during the operation, said Gutek.

“[The mission] was taxing physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically,” said Gutek. “We were operating between 12 and 16 hours during the movement, and once we reached the objective we had another three to four hours of offload before we could rest.”

The high operational tempo was maintained despite an increase in the improvised explosive device threat and stiff enemy resistance during the CLB-4 movements, said Gutek.

The Marines responded to the high-threat level in the area of



Cpl. David C. Avery III, radio operator, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), establishes communications with battalion headquarters from a forward rearming, refueling and resupply point, May 29. Avery provided communication support to CLB-4 during Operation Branding Iron.

operations by applying the fundamentals they first learned during combat training at the beginning of their careers.

“This mission gave the Marines a reality check, a reminder that they still need to retain and rely on the skills they learned in boot camp and [Marine Combat Training],” said Gutek. “This taught [the Marines] that they still need to maintain their basic field craft skills ... such as finding creative ways to keep yourself clean, developing a reinforced fighting hole, familiarity with the crew served weapons systems, and establishing and maintaining a

heightened security posture.”

The fighting holes, one of the examples of basic field craft skills that Marines utilized, were dug into the rocky ground of the R3P site and served to protect the Marines while they slept.

The temperature at the R3P site was another obstacle the Marines overcame.

“The hotter it is the more of a challenge it is to maintain your hygiene ... and it is 120 plus degrees out here during the day, so people are sweating more and the dust starts coating everything,” said Sgt. Daniel B. Baker, loadmaster,

3rd Plt., Alpha Co., CLB-4. “If you don’t stay clean, you risk getting sick and once one person gets sick, it spreads because everyone is living in such tight quarters. When we start losing operators to sickness, it degrades our ability to achieve mission accomplishment.”

The direct support operation also marked the longest CLB-4 mission to date.

“Whether we plan for a three-day [combat logistics patrol] or a two-week support mission, the basics always apply,” said Hotchkiss. “The most important factor is engaged leadership, from the [non-commissioned officers] to the platoon commander, to ensure our Marines and sailors remain focused, remain disciplined and represent the battalion in a positive manner.”

The platoon accomplished their company commander’s goal of representing the battalion well by overcoming all of the challenges that arose during the operation to accomplish their mission, said Gutek.

“For the Marines and sailors participating in this operation, they see what the war fighter goes through on a daily basis,” said Hotchkiss. “The most important factor is the renewed energy they bring back to the Marines who have not had the opportunity to provide direct tactical logistics support to the forward lines of an operation.”



Lance Cpl. Adam R. Tornatore, wrecker operator, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), operates a crane on a MKR15 Logistics Vehicle System Replacement while adjusting a pallet of water that shifted during a combat logistics patrol in Helmand Province, May 28.



GIVE HIM ONE

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS OTTO GIRON

Story and photo by
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

At six months old, Petty Officer 1st Class Otto Giron was left with his older sister and grandmother in his home country of Guatemala while his mother went to America to build a better life for her family.

After four years, she was finally able to send for her children, and Giron spent the rest of his childhood growing up in America. The years flew by, and as high school graduation approached, Giron knew he needed to figure out what to do with his life.

“I was looking for direction,” said Giron, the medical adviser with the Combat Logistics Battalion 5 Embedded Partnering Team. “I knew I didn’t want to go to college. I wanted to be led, so I signed up.”

Although the original plan was to just serve four years, the Navy lifestyle Giron experienced had him hooked.

“Once I joined it just consumed me,” said Giron, 33, a native of Colton, Calif. “The Navy has become a part of who I am.”

As an advanced X-ray technician, Giron has helped with multiple complex surgeries for wounded Marines and sailors

throughout his career. After serving two deployments in Iraq, he saw many service members who had been hit with improvised explosive devices. These experiences showed him how important his job was.

“I’m a high school graduate, and I’m providing these doctors who have had 12 years of college with the images they look at to see how they are going to [operate] and significantly impact their life,” Giron said.

Fifteen years after first enlisting, Giron is currently serving in Afghanistan on his third combat tour. As part of the EPT, Giron works with soldiers of the 5th

Kandak, 1st Brigade, Afghan National Army at Camp Garmser.

“I feel fortunate that I have the opportunity to pass on the knowledge that I have learned throughout my career and can now teach it to members of a partnering nation,” said Giron. “I hope in turn it helps me grow and improve as a sailor myself.”

Giron works daily with the medical team of the 5th Kandak increasing the soldiers’ medical knowledge and supporting combat life saving courses.

“In the end I guess I became part of something greater than myself and that’s really the reward for me.”



Petty Officer 1st Class Otto Giron is a medical adviser with the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). As part of the EPT, Giron works daily with soldiers of the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, Afghan National Army.

Behind the scenes: Administration shop supports hundreds of Marines

Story and photos by
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – From reconstructing roads to eliminating insurgents, many Marines and sailors deployed to Afghanistan make an impact that is readily visible.

Within 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), there are thousands of Marines from multiple units working in various roles to support the warfighter on the front lines. Behind every one of those service members is a less visible but extremely important team that enables mission accomplishment in a different way.

“Administration is the behind the scenes action for every mission,” said Staff Sgt. Alain Espinosa, adjutant, Headquarters and Services Company, 1st MLG (Fwd). “We provide support through personnel accountability, personnel strength, awards, meritorious promotions, Red Cross messages, [authorized leave] and personnel casualty reports.”

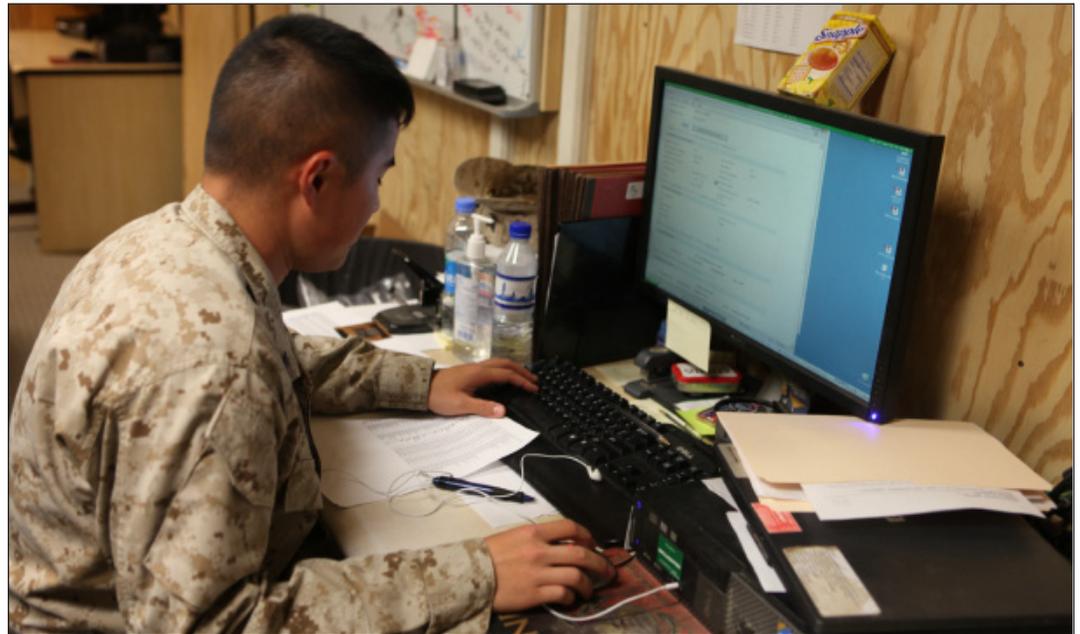
More than 3,000 personnel fall under 1st MLG (Fwd), but less than 10 Marines and sailors make up the G-1 shop that supports them all. Every morning, a brief is given to the commanding general, and G-1 gives the accountability report.

The shop keeps track of every individual’s location, whether it’s on Camp Leatherneck or outside of the wire, as well as how many 1st MLG (Fwd) members are located at each place. There are over 40 forward operating bases, patrol bases, combat outposts and camps where 1st MLG (Fwd) Marines and sailors provide support to ground units.

When an incident occurs in any of these locations, the G-1 team provides support that is necessary but rarely considered. Personnel casualty reports are written by the personnel Marines, who must ensure accuracy and timeliness in their reports for each situation.

“PCR’s are critical to annotating medical status of a Marine,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Bowen, manpower chief, H&S Co., 1st MLG (Fwd).

While the G-1 shop is responsible for typing up PCRs for personnel leaving the battlespace because of death or injury, they also



Petty Officer 3rd Class, William Poon, personnel specialist, G-1, Headquarters & Services Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), works administration support for sailors in 1st MLG (Fwd) at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

have the positive job of sending up awards and meritorious promotions. When a new award appears in a Marine’s service record, the tireless efforts of G-1 are rarely considered, yet their services ensure accurate personnel for each member of 1st MLG (Fwd).

“We ensure the Marines are recognized for their hard work and receive their awards in a timely manner prior to them redeploying to the states,” said Espinosa. “We provide the commanding general with the administrative support to recognize his Marines in the battlespace and be able to meritoriously promote them.”

The junior Marines work often with high ranking officers, offering their expertise in the administration field.

“They have a high visibility job and function well dealing with senior leadership, all the way up to the general, working with them on a daily basis,” said Bowen. “Their attention to detail is unmatched. These Marines demonstrate the highest professional abilities.”

While G-1 Marines focus on the Corps, Petty Officer 3rd Class William Poon, a sailor within the G-1 shop has the capability of a Naval Personnel Administration Center, dealing with issues including pay, awards, travel claims and emer-

gency contact information for all sailors in 1st MLG (Fwd).

“Some parts of my job are familiar to the Marines, but for the most part my job is completely different,” said Poon. “Being the only Navy administration sailor with MLG, they put me in the G-1 shop, but even though we are from different branches, it’s a small shop and we get to know one another well.”

Despite being junior Marines, the responsibilities they carry as members of the G-1 shop are significant. The work may sometimes be difficult, but it is completed with a total respect and understanding of the importance of their job.

“If I didn’t take responsibility

and do my job right, Marines would suffer,” said Lance Cpl. Francisco Garcia, administration clerk, G-1, H&S Co., 1st MLG (Fwd). “They would face issues like delayed flights and not enough funding for emergency leave trips, having to pay for everything out of their own pocket.”

Not only do the Marines and sailors take pride in their job but also have an appreciation for the chance to serve while forward deployed.

“It’s a privilege and an honor to be serving in Afghanistan,” said Garcia. “I have had the opportunity to learn a lot more about my job while out here and so far it has been a great experience.”



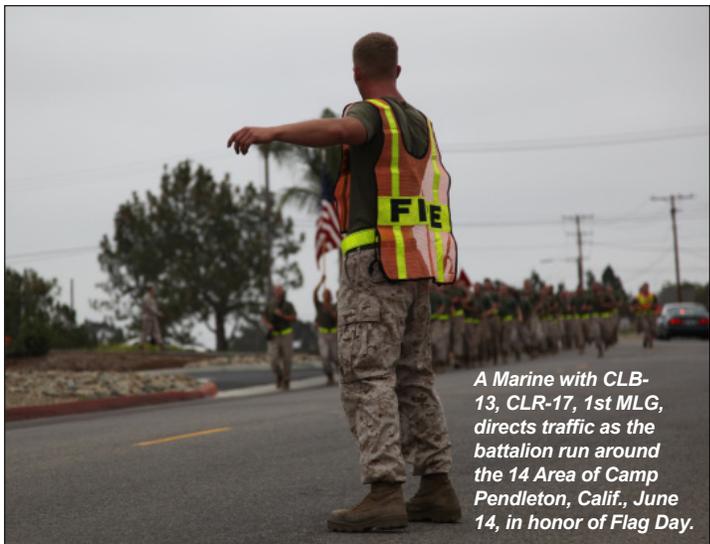
Lance Cpl. Francisco Garcia, administration clerk, G-1, Headquarters and Services Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), works to ensure each member of the more than 3,000-strong group are taken care of.



Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conduct a battalion run aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 14, in honor of Flag Day.

Flag Day

Photos by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar



A Marine with CLB-13, CLR-17, 1st MLG, directs traffic as the battalion run around the 14 Area of Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 14, in honor of Flag Day.



(top) Lt. Col. George Markert, commanding officer for CLB-13, CLR-17, 1st MLG, talks to his Marines and sailors after a battalion run aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 14. (left) Marines and sailors with CLB-13, CLR-17, 1st MLG, run for fun in honor of Flag Day, June 14.