



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

JULY 13, 2012

Fortified

Marine engineers build outpost for special operations forces

1st Lt. Tyler Morrison
1st MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors from Charlie Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) fortified an Afghan compound during a two-week operation in order to create a suitable village stability platform for members of Special Operations Task Force-West.

The mission required a full range of general engineering operations and mobility support. Due to the complexity of their task, Charlie Co. was reinforced by other members of 8th ESB including a motor transportation element, a security element

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Marine bonds with son through martial arts ... Page 4

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Marines with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group render honors during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 27.

Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado



Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

Lt. Col. Kevin R. Scott (left), the outgoing commanding officer for 2nd Maintenance Bn., 2nd MLG, hands the battalion colors to Lt. Col. Craig C. Clemans, the incoming commanding officer for 2nd Maint. Bn., during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 27. The transfer of the battalion colors symbolizes the passing of authority from one officer to another. Scott will continue his 27-year career at the Supreme Allied Commander Headquarters in Norfolk, Va.

POST!

2nd Maint. Bn. looks to continue great work under new command

Pfc. Frankin E. Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – As the warm summer heat filled the air, and rid the day of a cool morning, another change was underway on the grounds of the 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group compound.

The battalion bid farewell to their old leadership and hello to a new regime during a change of command ceremony here, June 27.

During the change of command Lt. Col. Kevin R. Scott, the outgoing battalion commander, relinquished his authority to Lt. Col. Craig C. Clemans, from Valparaiso, Ind.

The ceremony marked the end of a two-year campaign for Scott, who will be serving with in the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic Headquarters in Norfolk, Va., where he will continue his 27-year career.

“Being your commanding officer was an honor,” said the Mount Hermon, La., native, as

he addressed his Marines. “You made my job easy, and I will miss you all.”

After addressing the unit, Scott turned the microphone over to Clemans, at which time he immediately addressed the Marines and made his expectations known.

“I was the [Combat Logistics Regiment 25 executive officer]

and I know the job you’ve all done,” Clemans expressed. “I expect to keep-up the good work and to do great things with you all.”

As the ceremony drew to a close, both Marines were congratulated as they embarked on their separate paths in their careers.

Bike Safely

Passionate rider strongly encourages Marines to attend Motorcycle Mentorship Program

Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - People say "one man can't change the world," but that doesn't mean one man can't make a difference in another's life.

Sgt. Steven Potts took his first step into serving others by joining the Marine Corps in 2004. Now as a sergeant with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, he is a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist.

Every day revolves around ensuring Marines are prepared for any type of CBRN attack that could occur.

Potts runs the gas chamber, which is where Marines learn to properly decontaminate themselves in case of an attack as well as how to properly use a gas mask. He also teaches Marines how to search, identify and control an area in the presence of any chemical agents.

But, he doesn't stop there.

Potts is the vice president of the CLR-27 Motorcycle Mentorship Program. He is responsible for conducting mandatory monthly meetings, keeping riders informed about upcoming events, and preparing and

distributing letters of instruction.

"The mentorship program is great," said Potts, a Dayton, Ohio, native. "The rides teach Marines a lot more than they think they will learn."

The program meets once a month to have classes, demonstrations and a group ride to promote safe riding habits and to fine-tune basic riding skills.

"You don't have the safety features on a motorcycle that you have on a car," said

Potts. "You don't have airbags, windshields or seatbelts. You can end up killing yourself a lot easier than in a car."

With dangers prevalent, the Marine Corps has made

the attendance of programs like the MMP mandatory for everyone who owns or operates a motorcycle.

"Do all the training you can, it will help," said Potts. "Some of the courses offered by the [Corps] are expensive to civilians, and we get them for free. Take full advantage of the opportunities we get. The more training you do, the better the rider you are."

Potts puts everything he has into training his fellow Marines – whether in the gas chamber or on the road – how to survive when dangers prevail.

"Do all the training that you can, it will help."

- Sgt. Steven Potts

WARRIOR
of the WEEK



**SERGEANT
STEVEN POTTS**

OCCUPATION:
CBRN Specialist

HOMETOWN:
Dayton, Ohio

I JOINED BECAUSE:
"My family is patriotic and I felt the need to serve my county."

**WHAT UNIFORM
REGULATION WOULD
YOU CHANGE?**

"I would roll sleeves back up. I miss that."

**MOST MEMORABLE
CORPS EXPERIENCE?**
"Base security in Al Asad, Iraq."



Sgt. James W. Bridger takes a chance to offer some inspirational words to his son, Christian J. Bridger, prior to participating in a match during a North American Grappling Association tournament at Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Va., June 23.

Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

Like Father, Like Son

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Finding the time to bond with your kids in a highly demanding branch of military service, such as the Marine Corps, can be very challenging.

Sgt. James W. Bridger, a combat engineer with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and a member of the Lejeune Grappling Team since September 2011, determined the best way to bond with his oldest son, Christian, was through martial arts.

“It started by just coming home and watching [Ultimate Fighting Championship] fights on TV with my son,” Bridger said. “Eventually it came around to where I would come

Marine takes chance to bond with son through martial arts

back home and he would be in the room at three years old watching the fights by himself.”

Bridger realized his son’s desire to do martial arts was the perfect opportunity to improve their relationship.

“I started to introduce him to martial arts with the [Marine Corps Martial Arts Program],” Bridger explained. “He would watch

as I would bring friends over to the house to teach them and train then ... he always wanted to participate.

“He loved training with the pugil sticks and batons,” he added. “I taught him the stuff I knew and I trained him myself for a while.”

This was a good chance for him and his son to spend time together, as he expressed, but

due to family issues and the needs of the Marine Corps, Bridger and his son have been away from each other for more than a year.

“I entered him in a [martial arts academy] up in Virginia, where he lives,” he added. “I knew I couldn’t spend time with him every day and I did not want him to lose his interest for the sport, so I signed him up.”

Although Christian has been attending the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu academy for nearly a year now, he had never competed until June 23.

During the tournament, not only did he have the chance to compete in a North American Grappling Association tournament,

Continued on next page

SPORTS

WELCOME ABOARD

New commanding officer posts with 2nd Supply Battalion

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

CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C. – Second Supply Battalion welcomed a new commanding officer to its ranks during a change of command ceremony at Soifert Field here, June 21.

Lt. Col. David S. Gibbs, of Queens, N.Y., relinquished command to Lt. Col. Jesse Kemp, of Ardmore, Okla.

Gibbs' tenure with the unit included a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan, which began late last year. The battalion returned to Camp Lejeune in April after

providing steadfast support to elements of II Marine Expeditionary Force and aiding in International Security Assistance Force operations.

Gibbs couldn't be more proud of the Marines and sailors who stood before him, whether they were at home or abroad. As he shared his last words as their commander with them, he related his thoughts to his first job after high school - in a warehouse at John F. Kennedy International Airport - as he looked to save money for college.

"It was a thankless job and a lot of heavy lifting," he said. "But, I've tried to never forget the heavy lifting that was done by



Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Lt. Col. Jesse Kemp (right) receives the 2nd Supply Battalion colors from Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Todd, battalion sergeant major for 2nd Supply Bn., during a change of command ceremony at Soifert Field aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June. Kemp was promoted to his current rank in September 2011 and joins the battalion from the Okinawa, Japan-based 3rd Marine Division where he served as the unit's supply officer.

the Marines of 2nd Supply Bn.

"This is a battalion being turned over that is professional ... and well led."

Gibbs' next assignment will be at the Marine Corps Network Operations and Security Center in Quantico, Va.

Kemp joins the battalion from the Okinawa, Japan-based 3rd Marine Division where he served as the unit's supply officer.

"I'm immensely proud and humbled to be able to serve with you as your CO," he said, as the ceremony concluded.

Kemp's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

Christian J. Bridger (Center), the son of Sgt. James W. Bridger, a combat engineer with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, poses for a picture after winning first place on a North American Grappling Association tournament at Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Va., June 23. After his son expressed interest in martial arts at the age of three, Bridger saw his son's desire to participate as the perfect opportunity to improve their relationship and began teaching him basic techniques.

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but he also had the chance to see his dad participate during the same event.

"Seeing my son fighting and winning was priceless," Bridger expressed with a sense of pride and joy as he spoke about his son. "To see him grow into the sport from the beginning, to be able to be there for his first official competition, was great." The tournament was held at Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Va. Christian placed first and third in both categories in which he competed.

"My son already expressed his gratefulness and his desire to participate in the next NAGA tournament," Bridger added.

While Bridger has been supportive of his son training and learning a martial art for three years, he has also taught him the self-discipline aspect of it.

"This sport is very humbling," he said. "You might be with your best friend and he could make you tap out, so this martial art really teaches you how to be modest."

Bridger expressed on multiple occasions that he is proud of his son and will continue to support him in anything he wants to do.

"Ultimately what I want for my son is to be happy doing whatever sport he wants to do," he concluded. "I am just very lucky that he likes the same thing as me, but I will support him and teach him to be the best he can be."

Fortified



Photo by 1st Lt. Tyler Morrison

A heavy equipment operator from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) uses a tractor, rubber tired, articulated steering, multi-purpose vehicle to destroy a section of inner compound wall at a village stability platform manned by special operations forces, June 21. The area proved to be kinetic as enemy activity was high. Several improvised explosive devices were found or struck along the route to the VSP and insurgents also engaged Charlie Company, 8th ESB with small arms fire.

Marine engineers build outpost for special operations forces

ESB,
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and a heavy equipment element so they could focus strictly on their engineering role.

Special operations personnel planned to enter an area in central Helmand province that previously lacked a coalition force presence, and they needed a fortified structure to base their operations from. To minimize the impact on the local community, the special operations personnel chose to fortify an existing Afghan compound rather than create a new VSP from scratch.

“Due to the prevalence of enemy activity and in order to maintain the element of surprise, we were not able to conduct an on-site survey that is usually performed on engineering projects,” explained Capt. Brad Klusmann, Charlie Co. commander, 8th ESB. “All of our planning was done from aerial imagery.”

More than 60 vehicles marshaled at 8th ESB’s compound aboard Camp Leatherneck early in the morning of June 19, filled with engineering supplies and heavy equipment headed for the VSP.

Due to the remote location of the VSP, Charlie Co. had to blaze a new route to the

objective over challenging terrain. Leading the way were members of Mobile Assault Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, who provided route clearance support, ensuring the new route was clear of any improvised explosive devices.

The next day, the company arrived at the VSP with SOTF-W personnel already in place. The Marine heavy equipment operators immediately began mobility operations to improve the route to the VSP as several streams made the approach difficult for some of the larger equipment.

“The heavy equipment operators put in a lot of time at the start of this mission, and they really adapted to the situation well,” said 1st Lt. Christopher White, platoon commander, Charlie Co., 8th ESB. “Originally we were planning on installing a medium girder bridge to cross one of the gaps leading up to the VSP, but we ended up installing several culverts instead. We planned multiple courses of action for the mobility operations because we knew things could look different on-site versus from the air.”

Once the heavy equipment operators improved the route to the VSP, the rest of Charlie Co. got to work fortifying the compound to meet the special operations team’s needs.

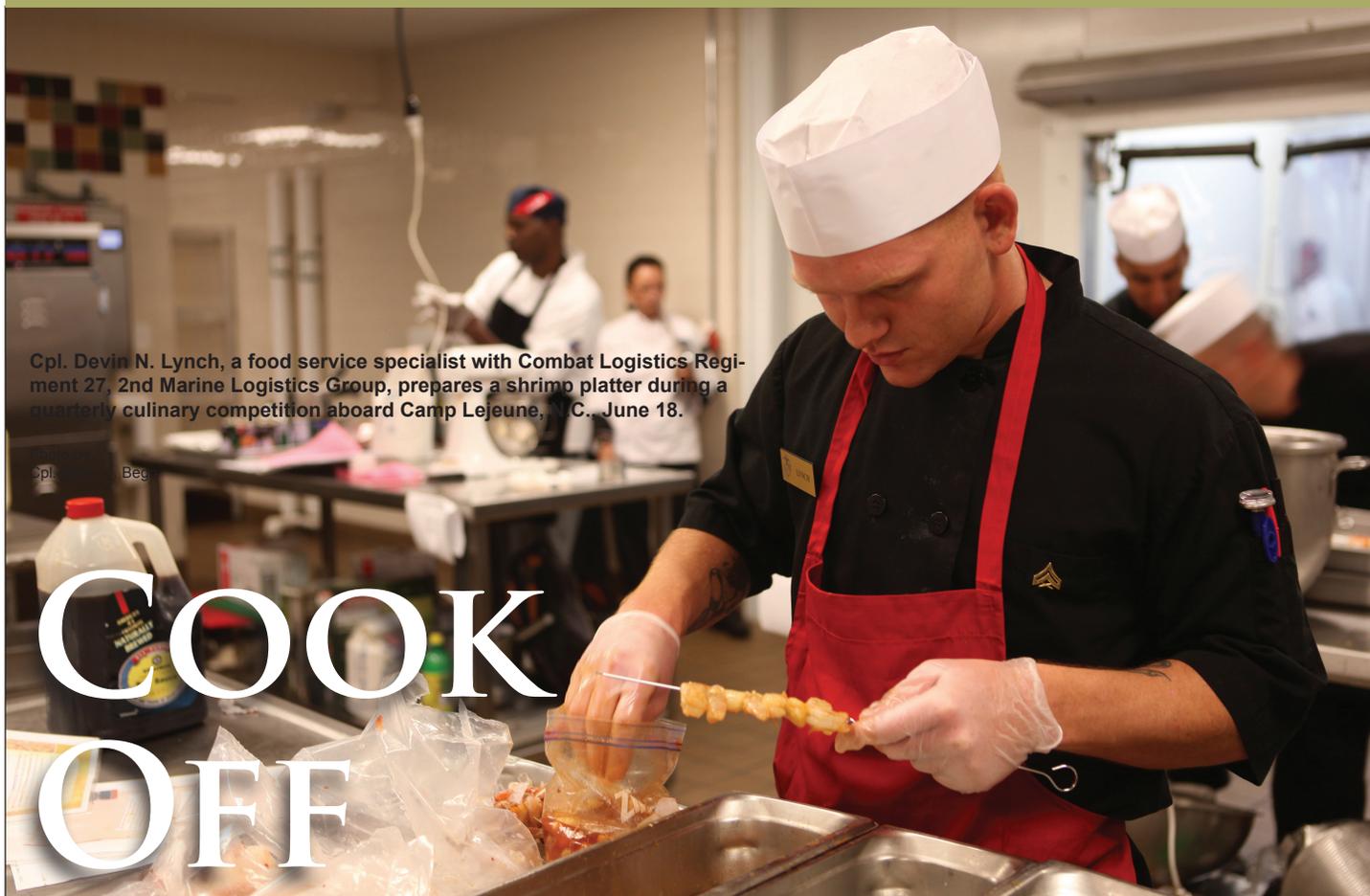
First, they swept the area for improvised explosive devices. Then the Marine engineers fortified walls with Hesco barriers, demolished several excess inner compound walls, laid out a helicopter landing zone, built several guard towers, increased visibility from the compound and improved fields of fire.

“Our general support relationship with SOTF-W has been really good,” said Klusmann. “We want to support them as much as possible, but at the same time they have also been willing to listen and take advice.”

The area proved to be kinetic as enemy activity was high. Several IEDs were found or struck along the route to the VSP, and insurgents also engaged Charlie Co. with small arms fire.

Despite these challenges, 8th ESB was eager to support SOTF-W and successfully accomplished the mission.

“This is definitely the most exciting mission we have completed during this deployment so far,” said Lance Cpl. David Laviolette, motor transport operator, 8th ESB.



Cpl. Devin N. Lynch, a food service specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, prepares a shrimp platter during a quarterly culinary competition aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 18.

Food service specialists compete for chef of the quarter

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C. –

Four food service specialists with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group and chefs with Sodexo participated in a quarterly culinary competition here, June 18.

The members of each team competed fiercely to earn the top prize of becoming chef of the second quarter for 2012, and the chance to go against other winners at the last event to be titled chef of the year.

“Twelve teams from different messhalls across Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and New River competed for a chance to be here today,” explained Charles James Jr., the area manager for Sodexo. “Only four made it to this com-

petition and one out those four will be chef of the quarter.”

In order to place for the competition the nominees had to endure a series of tests on food service knowledge and sanitation procedures, as well as various workshops, James explained.

Each team was comprised of two members, four Marines with CLR-27 who are currently assigned to Messhall 303, and four Sodexo chefs assigned to Messhalls 128 aboard Camp Lejeune, and 455 aboard Camp Johnson.

Sodexo is a French multinational corporation and it’s the Marine Corps’ main food service provider.

“This is a collective organization between the Marine Corps and Sodexo,” James said. “This is put together mainly by

the production managers and the senior [Marine] leaders at every food service location.”

Gunnery Sgt. Morris Mayfield III, the operations chief for Food Service Company, CLR-27, explained the most important part of this competition is not just competing, but giving the best effort each member of the team has.

“The major thing here is that each individual competing represents their messhall with the best of their abilities,” Mayfield expressed.

The event’s theme required competitors to serve food for a picnic, however, the participants were restricted from serving ribs, chicken, hotdogs and hamburgers to increase the level of difficulty and to encourage them to think outside the box.

“The restrictions and requirements for the competition are

always challenging,” Mayfield expressed. “But this is what we do, we are never going to have the perfect setup, so we need to adapt.”

The judges were responsible for evaluating every aspect of the food served by the competitors. Each team score was based on cooking fundamentals, composition of dish, overall flavor, seasoning, doneness, timing of service and temperature.

All four teams received a letter of appreciation for their efforts as food service specialists, but only the first, second and third place teams will be awarded their respective medal and a chef jacket.

The Sodexo team from Messhall 455 took the first place, but the Marines of CLR-27, despite of placing third and fourth in the competition, vowed to return the next quarter for the trophy.



Maj. Brian W. Mullery (left), the incoming commanding officer for Combat Logistics Battalion 6, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, receives the battalion organizational colors from Lt. Col. Ralph J. Rizzo, the outgoing commanding officer for CLB-6, during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 22. The passing of the colors symbolizes the transfer of authority from one commander to another.

Photo by
Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

CLB-6 Welcomes New Battalion Commander

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Service members with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group had the opportunity to meet their new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony here, June 22.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Ralph J. Rizzo passed the responsibilities of the battalion to Maj. Brian W. Mullery.

Col. Yori R. Escalante, the CLR-2 commanding officer and the guest speaker at the ceremony, took the chance to recognize

Rizzo for his efforts as the battalion commander.

“The biggest thing I can say about Ralph is that he cares,” Escalante expressed. “He cares about the unit and he cares about the individual Marine.”

During his speech, Escalante highlighted Rizzo’s passion for command and passion to succeed.

“It has always been said that if someone cares, and you see that someone cares, everything else falls into place,” Escalante said. “And there is no better example for that than CLB-6.”

Soon after Escalante finished his speech, Rizzo stood in front of his troops with the microphone in his hand and shouted a

thank you for their performance in Afghanistan.

Rizzo followed to tell the audience about his experience with the Marines and sailors of CLB-6 during their seven-month tour of duty.

“The things that impressed me most, were that all the mottos we talk about I saw them do over there,” Rizzo stated with a sense of pride and accomplishment. “Day after day they would prepare their trucks, mount their weapons, pull out and spend 10, 12 days on the road ... come back and I would have to tell them I have to send you back out there.

“They would say ‘Got it boss,’

and they would be right back on their weapons and on the road,” Rizzo said. “Not one said no, not one said I’m tired today ... That’s what I will take away from these Marines and sailors.”

The ceremony concluded with Mullery’s speech, during which he thanked the command for the opportunity of leading the battalion and he talked to the troops about his commitment to them.

“You are the exceptional professionals,” Mullery concluded. “It is my privilege and my honor to lead you and I will work tirelessly every single day of my command to ensure you get to where you need to be.”

COMMANDER
COL. MARK R. HOLLAHAN

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. GEORGE W. YOUNG JR.

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
CMDM RUSSELL W. FOLLEY

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