



# The Convoy

July 13, 2012

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

Volume 4 Issue 12

## 1st MLG celebrates 65th year anniversary



Story and photos by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

### MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

– Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group celebrated the 65th Anniversary of the unit here, July 2.

“Good morning [everyone] and thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of our organization,” said Col. Randy J. Lawson, chief of staff, 1st MLG. “We’ve been through a few name changes and reorganizations over our history, and, yes, we’re experiencing another in the next three years.”

The 1st Combat Service Group, now known as 1st MLG, was formed July 1, 1947, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

“Change in organization has been a recurring theme, but our

**See BIRTHDAY Page 3**

Col. Randy J. Lawson, right, chief of staff, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and Sgt. Maj. Juan J. Diaz, middle, regimental sergeant major, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st MLG, prepare to attach the Navy Presidential Unit Citation Streamer to the unit colors during a ceremony celebrating the 65th Anniversary of 1st MLG at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 2.

## 1st MLG Fwd celebrates 65 years

Story by  
Sgt. John Jackson  
Staff Writer

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** - Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) celebrated the 65th Anniversary of the Logistics Group during a morning colors ceremony on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 2.

The ceremony, which was conducted by the noncommissioned officers of 1st MLG (Fwd), began with the raising of morning colors. Following morning colors, 1st MLG (Fwd) Marines and sailors took time to remember the four 1st MLG (Fwd) heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice since the group assumed responsibility as the Lo-

**See BIRTHDAY FWD Page 3**



Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow, right, Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Sgt. Maj. Antonio Vizcarrondo Jr., 1st MLG (Fwd) sergeant major, salute the colors during 1st MLG's 65th Anniversary ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 2. (Photo by Cpl. Samuel Nieves)

INSIDE



### New Zealand Soldiers train with 1st MLG

Page 5

CLR-17 relief and retirement ceremony .....Page 2

7th ESB Marine retires after 28 years .....Page 7

CLB-4 supports SOTF-W .....Page 8

Follow us on:



# CLR-17 relief, appointment retirement ceremony

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Savannah Moyer  
Public Affairs Officer

## MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

– Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Ledferd, outgoing regimental sergeant major, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, commemorated his 29 years of service to the Marine Corps and transferred authority to the incoming regimental sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Brian D. Milton, in a relief and appointment retirement ceremony here, June 21.

“Sgt. Maj. Ledford is a dynamic, charismatic leader, and an inspiration to all his Marines, officers and enlisted alike,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth M Sandler, executive officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17. “It has been an honor to serve with [Sgt. Maj. Ledford], and I thank him for his mentorship and everything he has taught me ... sergeant major, fair winds and following seas.”



Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Ledferd, right, outgoing sergeant major, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, transferred authority to Sgt. Maj. Brian D. Milton, during a relief and appointment ceremony here, June 21.

Ledferd enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1982. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (second award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (second award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (third award), and the Good Conduct Medal (seventh award). He assumed his post as

the regimental sergeant major of CLR-17, June 20, 2011.

Ledferd warmly welcomed Milton, who comes to CLR-17 from Marine Wing Support Group 17.

“Sergeant major, I know you will challenge the Marines, uphold the highest standards, and the Regiment will continue to thrive under your leadership,” said Ledferd. “Welcome aboard.”

Milton took time out of his speech to specifically address his new Marines.

“I am proud to be your new sergeant major, and I am here to support you in completing all missions, your personal and professional growth, and I will give my 100 percent to you,” said Milton. “From you, I ask the same thing. Continue with the excellence and professionalism that has preceded you.”

The ceremony ended with the reading of Old Glory and passing of the flag presentation.



Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Ledferd, outgoing sergeant major, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, hugs his wife Anna after the relief and appointment retirement ceremony here, June 21.

## 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.

**DSTRESS**  
WIN YOUR PERSONAL BATTLES.  
**1.877.476.7734**  
DSTRESSLINE.COM

DoD  
**Safe Helpline**  
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

Live 1-on-1 Help Confidential Worldwide 24/7

After a sexual assault, you may want expert advice from a real person...not a machine.

Contact Safe Helpline to connect with a trained professional and get needed support.



Click [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org)

Call 877-995-5247

Text\* 55-247 (INSIDE THE U.S.)

202-470-5546 (OUTSIDE THE U.S.)

\*Text your location for the nearest SARC



FOLLOW US ON:



### COMMANDING GENERAL

BRIG. GEN. JOHN J. BROADMEADOW

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

1ST LT. JEREMY MCLEAN  
1ST LT. TYLER MORRISON  
2ND LT. SAVANNAH MOYER

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

STAFF SGT. MIGUEL CARRASCO

### SERGEANT MAJOR

SGT. MAJ. ANTONIO VIZCARRONDO JR.

### COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

SGT. JOHN JACKSON  
SGT. MICHELE WATSON  
CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

CONTACT US: 760-763-7795 1MLG\_PUBLIC\_AFFAIRS@USMC.MIL

# BIRTHDAY

continued from Page 1

mission has always been constant,” said Lawson. “We provide seamless combat service support to [I Marine Expeditionary Force] and its major subordinate commands in any time and place.”

The 1st MLG is the Marine Corps’ provider of the six functions of logistics - transportation, engineering, maintenance, supply, health services, and services - for I MEF.

The 1st MLG has attributed in building roads, bridges and camps throughout the globe, in support of numerous operations, as recently as Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Lawson.

Marines in the unit have also identified and destroyed multiple improvised explosive devices, Lawson said. The unit also took charge of repairing vehicles and equipment, as well as conducting resupply missions to the warfighters with all class of supply - food,

water, ammunition, fuel and repair parts - via combat logistics patrols and air deliveries. Almost as important as the troops’ welfare, disbursing personnel with 1st MLG ensured that service members get pay and receive their care packages.

Sailors with the unit attended the wounded, offering medicine, treatments and dental care for those needed at aid stations, forward and in garrison, as well as providing immediate care to those with severe wounds at shock trauma platoons and forward resuscitative surgical systems. The unit also supported Marines and sailors with legal services, Lawson explained.

On top of their specialties, Lawson said Marines and sailors in the unit trained to be professional service members, to understand their tradition and core values.

“Our Marines epitomize the slogan ‘Every Marine is a rifleman.’ We provided our own security for convoys in Iraq, and we also do it in Afghanistan,” said Lawson. “We ensure that I MEF receives the

support services and supplies they required to persevere in combat, and while in garrison has what it needs to train and maintain readiness.”

During the ceremony, Lawson attached the Battle Streamers to the unit Battle Colors to recognize and celebrate the honors the unit has received. The Battle Streamers included - the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with Two Bronze Stars, the Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with Three Bronze Stars, the Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with Three Bronze Stars, the National Defense Streamer with Three Bronze Stars, the Korean Service Streamer with Two Silver Stars, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer, the Vietnam Service Streamer with Two Silver Stars and One Bronze Star, the Southwest Asia Service Streamer with Two Bronze Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Steamer, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Streamer, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer and the Viet-

nam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Streamer.

“As you can see by our battle chronology, our organization has deployed in every engagement, beginning with the Korean War,” said Lawson. “We stand on the shoulder of our predecessors, who have left us a proud legacy to uphold.”

Lawson closed the ceremony addressing the Marines and sailors of 1st MLG, as well as their guests.

“As we continue to reorganize and refocus to our amphibious nature, we must remember to honor our legacy by striving everyday to train hard, mentor our subordinates and look out for one another,” said Lawson. “As we approach another Independence Day celebration, think about how privilege we are to serve in this great nation, and in our stoic Corps and Group. When that chill starts down your spine when you hear ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ be proud of who you are and what you represent. Victory [is] through logistics.”

# BIRTHDAY FWD

continued from Page 1

logistics Combat Element for Regional Command (Southwest) in February.

The ceremony concluded with Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow, the Commanding General of 1st MLG (Fwd), and Sgt. Maj. Antonio Vizcarrondo Jr., the 1st MLG (Fwd) Sergeant Major, adding the Afghanistan Campaign Streamer with two bronze stars to the organizational colors in recognition of 1st MLG (Fwd)’s participation in Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow spoke to the Marines and sailors about 1st MLG’s legacy.

“Since its founding in 1947, the MLG has gone by many different names,” said Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow. “It’s been called the Combat Service Group, the Force Service Regiment, the Force Service Command, the Force Service Support Group and today the Marine Logistics Group. At various times it worked for Fleet Marine Force Pacific and at others it was part of the 1st Marine Division.

“With all of these changes in



*The 1st MLG battle colors proudly displays the various campaign and battle streamers the 1st MLG has been awarded during its 65 year history. (Photo by Cpl. Samuel Nieves)*

both name and organization, it can be hard for Marines and sailors assigned to the MLG to establish that same sense of historical connection to our predecessors as our counterparts in the division and wing. It’s for that reason I think it’s important to take time out of our day and recount that heritage.”

Formations representing each unit under 1st MLG (Fwd)’s command participated in the anniversary ceremony. Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Battalion 5,

8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) (Reinforced), 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, and Headquarters and Service Company stood proudly as they each represented 1st MLG (Fwd).

“These Marines in today’s parade represent a wide cross current of skill sets and units,” said Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow. “There are Marines here from each of the three MLGs. They have all become an integral part of the 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and

take great pride in the support they provide to [I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)].”

1st MLG (Fwd) noncommissioned officers took pride in leading the 65th anniversary celebration while deployed.

“It was truly a privilege to be part of such a great ceremony,” said Sgt. Rachel Brokaw, a water purification quality control specialist with 8th ESB and the commander of troops for the ceremony. “The ceremony went phenomenally, and I am glad to be a part of the MLG.”



# GIVE HIM ONE!

## CPL. JASON FRICKE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CPL. MARK STROUD - CLB-4 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**H**ELM AND PROVINCE, Afghanistan —“When you have a [mechanically inclined] mind and you are familiar with how an engine works and how a vehicle works, you can solve a lot of the problems and issues that come up on convoys, that you otherwise wouldn’t have been able to [fix],” said Cpl. Jason K. Fricke.

Fricke, a 27-year-old motor vehicle operator with 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), developed his mechanical mindset over a lifetime of working on engines and vehicles of every sort.

His knowledge has been put to good use helping the Marines and sailors of 3rd Plt. maintain their vehicles and expand their motor transportation skill-set during the platoon’s deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said Sgt. Daniel B. Baker, loadmaster, 3rd Plt., Alpha Co., CLB-4.

“Passing on knowledge is one of my biggest focuses,” said Fricke. “I try to teach the Marines under me whenever I can ... you never know when the smallest maintenance problem can become a larger issue on a [combat logistics patrol].”

Fricke was first introduced to the fundamentals of vehicle maintenance and repair while racing go-carts and quarter-midgets (smaller versions of go-carts) during his childhood in Long Island, New York.

“[Racing go-carts] was my introduction to engines and the principles of maintenance,” said Fricke. “It helped me understand the key concepts.”



*Cpl. Jason K. Fricke, assistant loadmaster, 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), signals for a Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated steering, Multipurpose (TRAM) to raise its forks during offload operations, June 9.*

A job working for an auto-repair shop advanced Fricke’s automotive skills and understanding before he enrolled at the Universal Technical Institute in Mooresville, North Carolina, where he received a degree in vehicle maintenance.

“[Going to UTI] took everything I had and put it into one basket,” said Fricke. “It fine-tuned all of the knowledge I had.”

Fricke applies his experience to his job, assisting in vehicle recoveries, trouble shooting mechanical problems and serving as the platoon’s assistant load master.

“Fricke has a very large knowledge base regarding heavy vehicles,” said Baker. “He can even do some of the second echelon maintenance, which is much more in-depth than what we typically do.”

The most recent 3rd Platoon mission provided direct tactical logistics support to a rearming,

refueling and resupply point (R3P site) in support of Operation Branding Iron from May 27 to June 11, and tested Fricke’s maintenance capabilities in a demanding operational environment.

“When I was in [Marine Combat Training] digging fighting holes, I thought that we would never have to do this in the fleet,” said Fricke. “When we ended up having to dig fighting holes out here... it was a reality check.”

According to Fricke, the demanding operational environment, both at the R3P site and on the routes leading to the site, created an increased strain on the tactical vehicles, requiring the platoon to assume a proactive maintenance stance.

“The vehicles being in constant use and the terrain being as demanding as it was, we had to find time to do maintenance on the vehicles ... even if it was all hours of the night,” said

Fricke.

The CLB-4 Marines and sailors were able to work together with units of Regimental Combat Team 6 to maintain the tactical vehicles at the R3P site despite limited equipment.

“We had to work together and share what we had because we were all on the same mission and if one of us wasn’t combat ready, then none of us were combat ready,” said Fricke. “Whether it was as little as borrowing tires or sealant, or helping each other work on the vehicles, we all pitched in.”

“All the Marines came together from CLB-4 and [the RCT-6 units] and completed the mission as it was tasked to us,” he added. “When we needed to push out to execute our runs to resupply and retrograde back to or from other [forward operating bases], all of the vehicles were ready so we were able to complete our mission.”

# Marines train with NZ Soldiers

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Jennifer Pirante  
1 MEF Public Affairs

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** - Marine combat engineers with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted joint training exercises with New Zealand soldiers from the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 25-26.

The two forces conducted improved ribbon bridge training, utilizing equipment still new to the Marines of 7th ESB. The Marines first began training with the improved ribbon bridge in February and have since become familiar with its functions and capabilities.

"It's an opportunity for them to see how we put this bridge together," said Staff Sgt. Juan Guillen, operations platoon sergeant with Bridge Co., 7th ESB. "They get to see the capabilities that we have here in the Marine Corps."

New Zealand 2nd Lt. Cameron Allen, troop commander of 2 Field Troop, 2 Field Squadron, 2 Engineer Regiment said the troops can utilize such training when working with the Royal Australian Army because they train with similar equipment.

The improved ribbon bridge gives Marines the capability to support transportation of heavy military loads across rivers and small bodies of water. The bridge has the ability to cross waters with currents of approximately eight feet per second and banks up to two meters in height. Marines and NZ soldiers also spent a day working together to construct a bridge on dry land.

The training is part of a month-long training exercise, called Galvanic Kiwi, a U.S. Marine Corps and New Zealand Army training exchange designed to enhance interoperability and foster military-to-military relations between the U.S. and New Zealand. The exercise encourages the exchange of views and fosters shared experience between the two forces.

"The concept behind it is that



*Marine combat engineers with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, work with New Zealand soldiers from the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers to conduct improved ribbon bridge training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 25. The training is part of a month-long training exercise, called Galvanic Kiwi, which afforded a military-to-military exchange. While New Zealand soldiers train with Marines at Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms, Marines with 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, deployed to New Zealand to conduct joint training operations. Galvanic Kiwi is a U.S. Marine Corps and New Zealand Army training exchange designed to enhance interoperability and foster military-to-military relations between the U.S. and New Zealand.*

we can come over here and learn how to operate better overseas on peacekeeping missions and give us a better idea of how [Marines] operate, learn some things and, hopefully, [Marines] can learn some things from us as well," Allen said.

The exercise kicked off June 15 and marks a reengagement after more than 25 years since the U.S. suspended Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty obligations with New Zealand. Last week, U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and NZ Defense Minister Jonathon Coleman signed a defense cooperation agreement at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. to expand the defense relationship.

Before the NZ engineers arrived at Camp Pendleton, they completed up urban combat training with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. While New Zealand soldiers trained with Marines at Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms, Marines with 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, deployed to New Zealand to conduct joint training operations there.



# 7th ESB sweeps competition

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Savannah Moyer  
Public Affairs Officer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, deputy commanding general, I Marine Expeditionary Force, presented the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, with the American Petroleum Institution's Marine Corps tactical unit of the year award for excellence in fuels

management in an awards ceremony here, June 20.

"We are certainly excited that a I MEF unit won the award," said Spiese. "We've come to expect that out of I MEF; we've got great Marines who lead the way inside the Marine Corps, and we're real proud of 7th ESB and our fuel company here."

Sgt. Kelly Brown, administrative chief, 1st Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, won the Ma-

rine Corps fuel noncommissioned officer of the year award. She was the fuel farm senior noncommissioned officer in charge at Forward Operating Base Payne in Afghanistan. In addition to receiving a commemorative plaque and a letter of recognition, her name will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque to be displayed at the naval supply energy office in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Cordes, company commander, 1st

Bulk Fuel Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG, won the Marine Corps fuel officer runner-up of the year award. He was the company commander and senior bulk fuel officer during 1st Bulk Fuel Co.'s seven-month deployment to Afghanistan. He was presented with a commemorative plaque and a letter of recognition.

"This particular group of Marines performed brilliantly in Helmand province. It was a very competitive awards cycle this year, and [7th ESB] rose to the top across the board," said Navy Captain Willie Robohn, director, Naval Supply Systems Command Energy. "It's a little unusual to have the company commander, the senior NCO, and the unit all win at the same time, but it's a testament to the efforts these Marines made."

The API, an internationally recognized petroleum trade organization, recognized the activities and personnel of 7th ESB to be of significant contribution and importance to the Department of Defense bulk fuel operations, petroleum-supply-chain management, and fleet fuel support.

"We went forward with 63 Marines. Starting with six fuel sites, we doubled it in the first four months we were there, receiving and issuing a total of almost nine million gallons of fuel," said Cordes. "The Marines spent seven straight months at sites that did not provide basic services that were afforded at larger sites. They spent this time under extreme weather and work conditions, and performed excellently."



Sgt. Kelly Brown, left, administrative chief, 1st Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineering Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Cordes, right, company commander, 1st Bulk Fuel Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG, were presented with annual awards from the American Petroleum Institution for excellence in fuels management here, June 20.

## Two creative Marines, Sailor win award

Story by  
2nd Lt. Savannah Moyer  
Public Affairs Officer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Col. Randy J. Lawson, commanding officer, 1st Marine Logistics Group, presented the winners of the force preservation competition with an award certificate and \$100 Marine Corps Community Services gift card in the 1st MLG Commanding General's Conference Room, June 26.

Sgt. Charles Tong, safety manager, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st MLG, Sgt. Joshua Kenney, light armored vehicle technician, Repairable Management Company, 1st Main-

tenance Battalion, CLR-1, 1st MLG, Lance Cpl. James Wooten, lot foreman, Heavy Equipment Section, General Support Motor Transport Company, CLR-1, 1st MLG, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan McConnel, corpsman and assistant safety chief, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st MLG, were the winning competitors.

These recipients were recognized for their efforts to identify innovative and creative ideas that will advance a culture of safety within their units.

"We are very pleased with [these Marines] that participated in this competition," said Lawson. "We think it's going to pay some dividends and, if nothing else, cause the Marines working with them to think about force preservation and safety. That's what we're really after: to get them thinking about the same things we're thinking about."

# Master gunnery sergeant retires after 28 years

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – After 28 years of faithful service, he said it was time for him to hang up those combat boots and dog tags to step forth into the civilian world and focus on his family.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Luis A. Adrianzen, operations chief, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, retired from the Marine Corps here, June 29.

Adrianzen said he was honored and humbled to see so many guests in attendance and wanted to dedicate his ceremony to everyone present.

“Many years ago, I wanted to have the biggest parade ever for my retirement. But as time goes along, I just want my certificate and to walk out the door,” Adrianzen said jokingly. “But with all

seriousness, I want to celebrate you – my mentors, my teachers and my family. So this parade is for you. It’s my way of saying thank you.”

Adrianzen recalled an event that happened 38 years ago which got him to where he is today. As a very young boy, Adrianzen asked his parents for permission to leave his home in Peru to come to the United States. Until this date, he said he could vividly remember that heart-wrenching day where he left his parents and the security of his home to chase after a dream of a better future for himself and his family in a foreign place. He said he was grateful of his parents for giving him the opportunity to do what he wanted to do.

“I was seven years old when I left... I didn’t see my parents for nine years,” Adrianzen said. “Mom and dad, thank you for letting me go. I am what I am because of you.”

Adrianzen said because of the

influences he had while growing up in America, he entered Marine Corps recruit training September 16, 1984.

Having to work his way up from the bottom of the food chain, he knows what his Marines are going through. Adrianzen said he was proud to serve with the Marines of 7th ESB. During the ceremony, Adrianzen took time to address his Marines.

“Marines, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being out here to be part of this ceremony,” he said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better way to go out – with a group of professional Marines from a battle-hardened battalion that I went to war with.”

During his service, Adrianzen deployed to various locations around the globe in support of numerous military operations. His experiences and leadership style have influenced many and will continue to influence more Devil Dogs. President Barrack Obama,

commander in chief, expressed his thoughts in a letter of appreciation to Adrianzen.

“I extend to you my personal thanks in this sincere appreciation of a grateful nation for your contribution of honorable service to our country,” Obama wrote. “You have helped maintain security of the nation during a critical time in its history with a devotion to duty and a spirit of sacrifice in keeping with a proud tradition of military service. Your commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to those who will follow in your footsteps. All Americans will join me today in saluting you for a job extremely well done.”

Adrianzen said he was pleased with the way his military career ended. As he hangs up his Dress Blues, Adrianzen’s son, Tony, will step on to those yellow footprints and follow his father’s footsteps to become a Marine July 9.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Luis A. Adrianzen, operations chief, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, addresses the guests during his retirement ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 29.

# CLB-4 supports Special Operations Task Force - West

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

**HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Marines and sailors with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), transported equipment and supplies to a village stability platform during a combat logistics patrol in the Helmand River Valley, June 22-24.

The VSP was operated by Marines with Marine Special Operations Command, working with Special Operations Task Force – West.

“The platforms are run by special forces and MARSOC operators from both the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, Afghan Commandos, and support personnel and help to provide stability to the local area,” said 1st Lt. Benjamin Gutek, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd).

The VSPs, which are smaller and located in closer proximity to the Afghan population than traditional forward operating bases, allow security forces to maintain a presence in local communities.

The Marines approached the mission to support SOTF-W in the same manner as they approach missions supporting conventional units.

“Our role [while supporting] MARSOC or SOTF-W is no

different than when we support traditional infantry units,” said Gutek. “Our role is important because no one else is capable of executing [motor transportation] operations like a logistics unit, which enables us to efficiently and effectively deliver classes of supply to the forward operating units.”

Bringing the supplies to the remote VSP from Camp Leatherneck required the CLB-4 patrol to cross varied terrain, including open desert, steep hills and narrow roadways through villages and around fields.

“I think the Marines have seen [challenging] terrain like that before ... they maneuvered over it really well,” said Gutek. “[On the narrow roads] there is not a whole lot you can do except go nice and slow and leave yourself room to maneuver to the front and rear.”

The Marines worked to avoid breakdowns caused by the challenging terrain.

“The trucks were well maintained ... none of the CLB-4 [vehicles] broke down, and any problems we did have with them, we solved in a timely matter,” said Cpl. Ethan R. Cox, navigator, 3rd Plt., Alpha Company, CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd).

The combat logistics patrol worked with a platoon from Mobile Assault Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, who con-



*Tactical logistics vehicles with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), move across rough terrain in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 22. The vehicles were part of a combat logistics patrol that supported Special Operations Task Force - West.*

ducted a route clearance patrol to help the Marines and sailors reach the VSP safely.

“RCP travels in front of the convoy and clears the route of [improvised explosive devices] and obstacles,” said Cox. “They work with [explosive ordnance disposal] to use controlled detonations to remove [any IEDs]...

and conduct site surveys on the blast site to determine the size of the IED and the initiation device.”

Cox considered this mission to be a success, as he mentioned that all of the Marines and sailors made it back safely, and all of the supplies and equipment were delivered.



*A Marine with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), uses a TX51-19M Rough Terrain Forklift to offload supplies at a village stability platform in the Sangin District, June 22. The supplies supported ongoing operations at the VSP.*

# Marine engineers build outpost for special operations force

Photos by  
1st Lt. Tyler Morrison  
1st MLG Officer



^ Vehicles from Charlie Company, 8th-Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) weave through the desert, heading for the Helmand River Valley in order to fortify a village stability platform for special operations forces, June 19.



< A Marine from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) walks the line of staged vehicles as members of Charlie Company prepare to convoy to the Helmand River Valley in order to fortify a village stability platform for special operations forces, June 19.



< A heavy equipment operator from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) guides a Medium Crawler Tractor during the construction of a culvert at a village stability platform manned by special operations forces, June 21.

# EOD teams provide critical support to infantry company

Photos by  
Sgt. John Jackson  
Staff Writer

> Sgt. Michael Smith, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and assistant team leader, 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), provides security prior to conducting a controlled detonation June 15.

< Sgt. Michael Smith examines a recovered IED June 15, in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The EOD teams are spread throughout the battlespace supporting infantry units by identifying, rendering safe and disposing of explosive threats.



> More than 25 IEDs explode after EOD team conducts a controlled detonation in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 15.

