

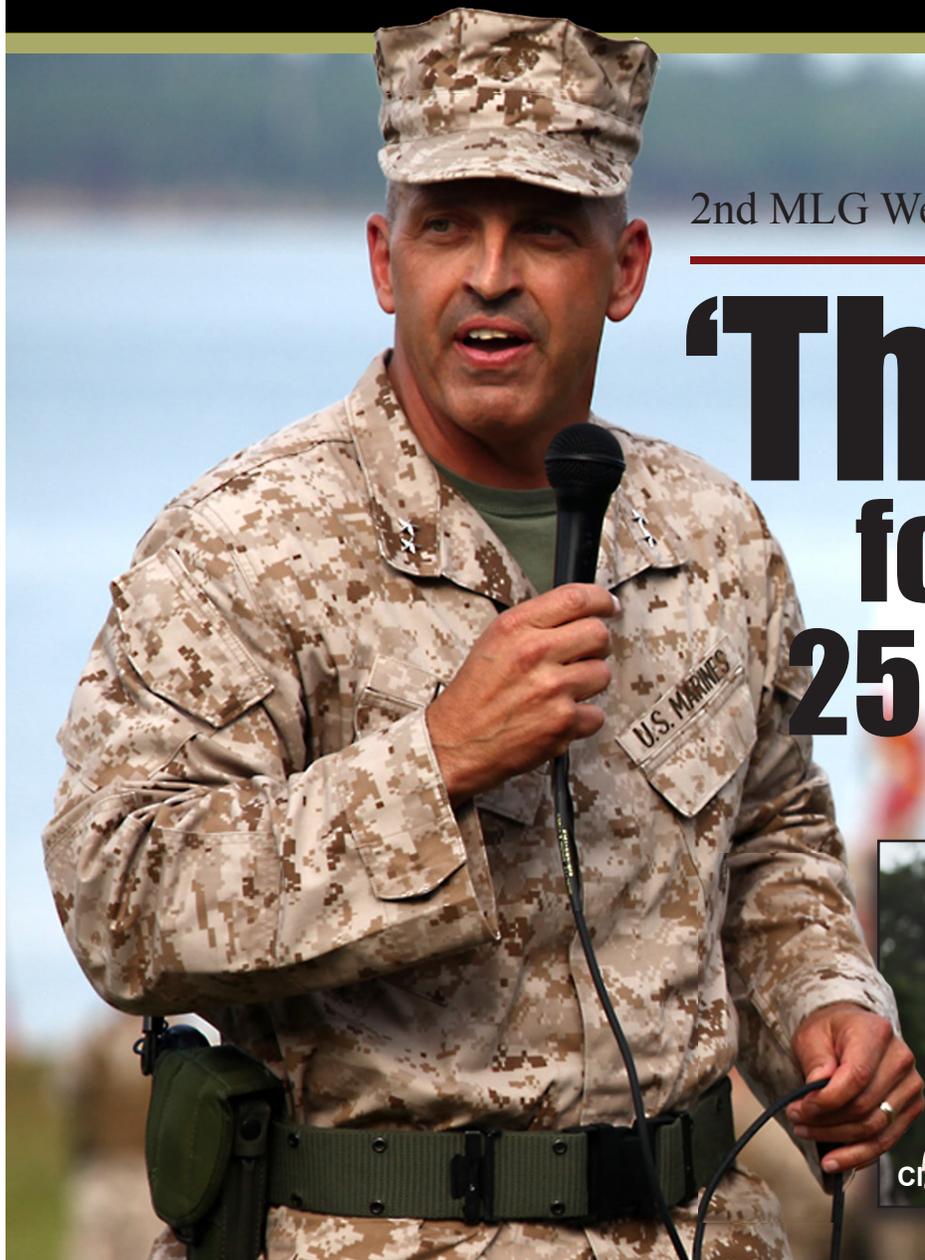


# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 21

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

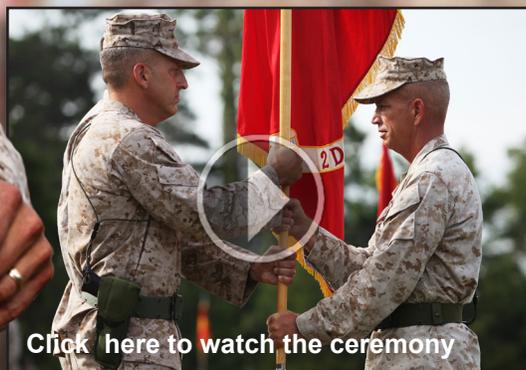
JULY 27, 2012



2nd MLG Welcomes New Commander

## 'Thanks for a great 25 months.'

Story on Page 4



[Click here to watch the ceremony](#)

INSIDE



**8th ESB enhances patrol base size, capabilities ... Page 6**

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# Joint Force Denial



Photos by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

(Above) Cpl. Tyler Jones, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, marks evidence found in a classroom during Exercise Joint Force Denial in Beaufort, N.C., July 18. (Right) Sgt. Bradley E. Davis, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with CLR-27, 2nd MLG, walks through a contaminated classroom during Exercise Joint Force Denial. During the training, Marines joined forces with the 42nd Civil Support Team, the Army's equivalent to a CBRN section, to search and control a simulated contamination inside an abandoned grade school.



## *Marines combat chemical threat alongside Army*

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

CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C.—Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialists with 2nd Marine Logistics Group ventured off the beaten path and participated in Exercise Joint Force Denial in Beaufort, N.C., July 18.

During the training, the CBRN defense specialists joined forces with the 42nd Civil Support Team, the Army's equivalent to a CBRN section, to search and control a simulated contamination inside an abandoned school building.

The Marines, soldiers and airmen worked as a cohesive unit to reach their objective

of decontaminating the area. The training also gave Marines a chance to work with other services as if they were augmented for emergency purposes.

"We wanted to integrate the Marines with the different services," said Gunnery Sgt. Brian Malcolm, the CBRN chief for Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd MLG. "In case of emergencies we can support [the 42nd CST], so we need to know how to work with them.

"We need to be on the same page with them when working together."

As the exercise continued into the afternoon, the sweltering heat didn't stop these dedicated service members from moving on toward completing the mission.

Three Marines, a soldier and an airman safely cleared six rooms while separated into two groups.

One of those groups included Sgt. Steven D. Potts, a CBRN defense specialist with CLR-27.

During the training, servicemembers did share a quality that proved helpful, explained Potts. They shared a common knowledge of the equipment and military terminology, which made the exercise run smoother.

CBRN threats are extremely dangerous and it is imperative that troops are prepared to operate under any circumstance.

Though it is yet to be seen when or if the 2nd MLG will support the 42nd CST in future endeavors, the defense specialist across the group are ready for what is thrown their way.

# Life on the GREEN SIDE

## Sailor reflects on five-year tour with Marines

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Corpsmen, medical officers, religious service specialists and chaplains are the most common Sailors seen working hand-to-hand with Marines. However, other jobs such as logistics specialists are a much more uncommon sight.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul M. Koch, a logistics specialist with 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, has managed to distinguish himself among leathernecks for nearly five years.

Koch's career started in 2007, when he joined the Navy with the desire of becoming a corpsman and deploying.

"I wasn't able to get the job I wanted, so the logistics specialist job opened up and I took it," the Silver City, Iowa, native explained. "I was concerned because I didn't know if I was going to be able to deploy around the world with this [job]."

The logistics specialist occupational specialty was created as a result of combining the Navy's storekeeper and postal clerk specialties. LS Sailors are in charge of taking inventory of general supplies that support ships and squadrons.

The job demands are similar to the Marine Corps' warehouse and postal clerks.

During his time at the Naval Technical Training Center aboard Naval Air Station

Meridian, Miss., Koch made it clear to his superiors that he wanted to serve in an operational unit, such as the Seabees. Upon graduation, though, he was informed that his wish was not possible.

"I was told that there was an opening with a Marine Corps unit instead," he said. "I thought it was cool I was going to get to work with the Marines."

What Koch did not think was that the Marines were going to take him for a spin in some of the most dangerous terrain known to mankind.

He started by volunteering to deploy with his battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009.

"In Iraq I got to meet a lot of great people

and that's where I got more involved with Marines," Koch explained. "During that deployment I received my [Fleet Marine Force badge]."

The FMF is a badge earned by naval personnel who are trained and qualified to operate with Marines.

After returning from his first deployment, Koch was promoted to petty officer 3rd class. He continued to serve with his battalion and alongside Marines, but in March of 2011 he decided to pick up the pace and volunteer to participate in Corporal's Course.

The month-long course is designed to toughen noncommissioned officers physically and mentally through grueling physical

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**"I am proud of my  
deployments and my  
service alongside Marines."**

- Petty Officer 3rd Class Koch

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See **SAILOR**, Page 7

## WARRIOR of the WEEK



**PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS  
PAUL M. KOCH**

**OCCUPATION:**  
Logistics Specialist

**HOMETOWN:**  
Silver City, Iowa

**I JOINED BECAUSE:**  
"I wanted to travel around the world."

**IF YOU COULD MEET  
ANY MARINE OR SAILOR,  
WHO WOULD IT BE?**  
"Archibald Henderson,  
because of the amount of  
years he served."

**FAVORITE UNIFORM:**  
"Desert cammies, sleeves up."

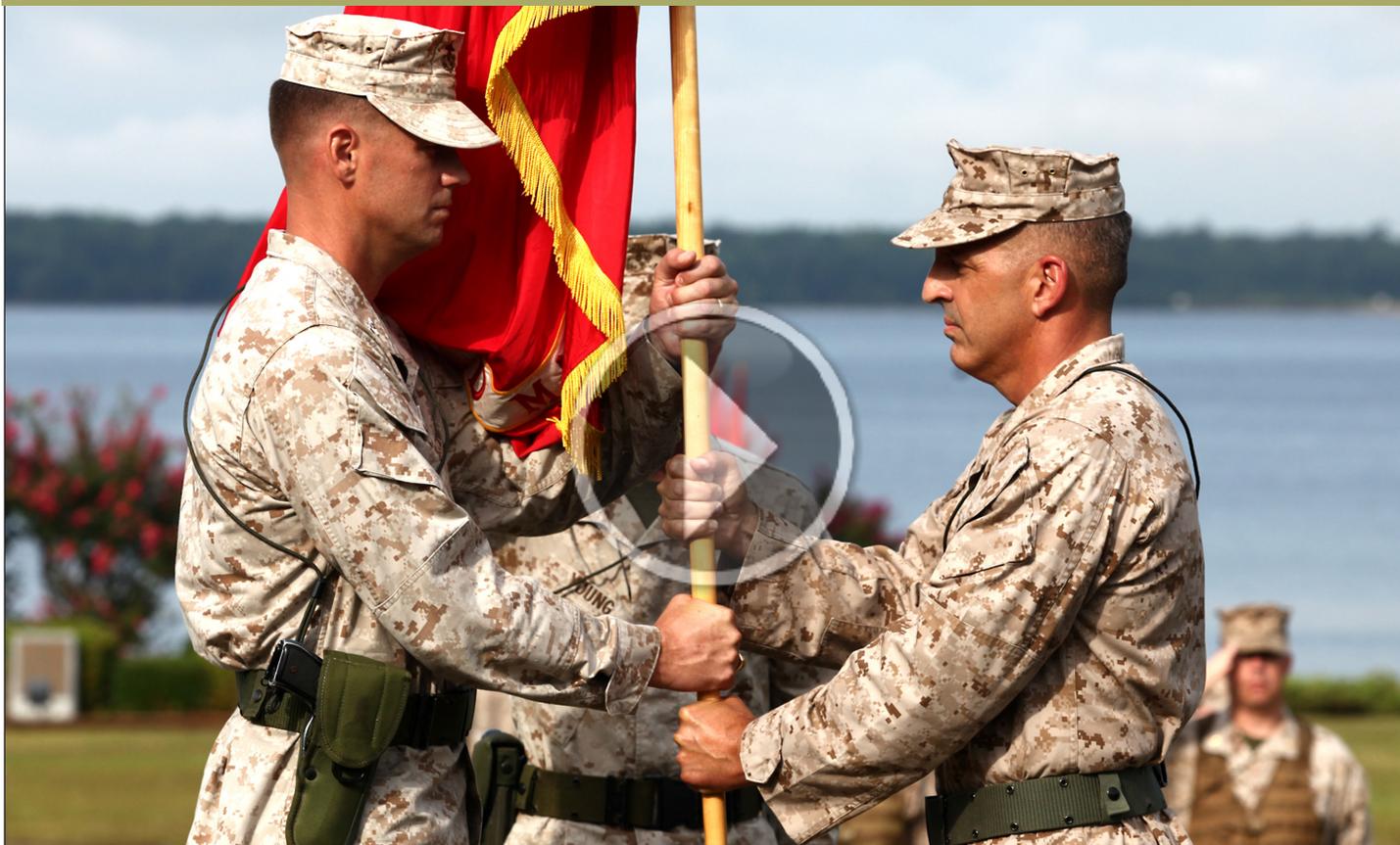


Photo by Sgt. Anthony Ortiz

Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana (Right), commanding general of 2nd Marine Logistics Group, relinquishes his command to Col. Mark R. Hollahan aboard Camp Lejeune N.C., July 12. Click the photo to watch the ceremony.

## 2nd MLG Welcomes New Commander

**Staff Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski**

*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C.** – The commanding general of 2nd Marine Logistics Group relinquished command of more than 9,000 Marines, Sailors and civilians during a ceremony at the MLG amphitheater here, July 12.

Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana, of Schenectady, N.Y., passed the reigns to Col. Mark R. Hollahan, of Decatur, Ga.

Dana assumed command of 2nd MLG in June 2010 amid an extremely demanding operational tempo geared toward supporting International Security Assistance Force operations in Helmand and Nimroz provinces in southern Afghanistan. In early 2011, he led 2nd MLG (Forward) to the region where his logistical assets continued to provide top-notch support to the warfighters on the ground.

After assuming logistical authority of Regional Command Southwest from Camp Pendleton-based 1st MLG (FWD) in March 2011, Dana charged his Marines and sailors to “take care of the grunts, take care of our equipment and take care of our Afghan partners.”

Over the course of the next year, the record-breaking statistics posted by 2nd MLG were a testament to the unit’s character and drive, as well as Dana’s own resolve.

Under his leadership, the unit conducted nearly 2,000 combat

logistics patrols and improved more than 150 kilometers of road. Engineers built nearly 90 combat positions and patrol bases. Medical personnel treated more than 1,500 patients, and explosive ordnance disposal Marines cleared 100,000 pounds of improvised explosive devices and bomb-making materials.

During his remarks, Dana offered some sage advice for those joining the MLG in future endeavors – “Stay the course.”

“There are some tough times ahead, but in 30 years, I have never seen the Marine Corps in better shape,” he said. “Thanks for a great 25 months.

“Mark, the command is yours.”

Dana will now report for duty as the assistant deputy commander for Installations and Logistics, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington.

Hollahan, the commanding officer of 2nd MLG’s Combat Logistics Regiment 27, will assume the duties of the office of the commanding general until Brig. Gen. (Select) Edward D. Banta, current military assistant to the secretary of the Navy, takes the helm next month.

Hollahan noted the importance of continued efforts in preparing the unit for the incoming commanding general, but assured Dana the unit would continue its legacy by echoing the unit’s motto.

“Sir, we will remain ‘warriors sustaining warriors,’” he concluded.

**“We will remain  
‘warriors sustaining  
warriors.’”**

- Col. Mark A. Hollahan



Photos by Staff Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

(Above) Marines render honors as the National Anthem plays during the 2nd Marine Logistics Group change of command ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 12. (Right) Col. Mark R. Hollahan addresses the crowd after taking command of the unit from Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana.



Photos by Sgt. Anthony Ortiz

(Above) The 2nd Marine Division Band performs during the 2nd Marine Logistics Group change of command ceremony, July 12. (Above, Right) Guidon bearers and platoon commanders assemble during the 2nd MLG change of command ceremony. Dana, of Schenectady, N.Y., passed the reigns to Hollahan, of Decatur, Ga. Hollahan will assume the duties of the office of the commanding general until Brig. Gen. (Select) Edward D. Banta, current military assistant to the secretary of the Navy, takes the helm next month.

# Expansion

## *8th ESB increases patrol base size, enhances capabilities*

**Sgt. Michele Watson**  
*1st MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

**PATROL BASE EREDVI, Afghanistan** – More than 100 Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) completed their largest mission to date here, July 15.

Patrol Base Eredvi, manned primarily by troops from the Republic of Georgia, underwent multiple construction projects

that included moving the helicopter landing zone and adding a firing point for a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

“We’ve expanded the base by 1,000 feet to the north, 400 to the south and 450 to the west,” said Capt. Anthony Rowley, company commander, Engineer Co., 8th ESB. “We added a new 120mm mortar site and an area for HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System).”

Additionally, the Marines added six guard towers for security and a location for the Persistent Threat Detection System. This system is a blimp that provides additional surveillance for coalition forces by using cameras to track movement in outlying areas. Together, all of these projects became a major task for the Marines of Engineer Co.

“This is the biggest mission I’ve done out of four combat deployments,” said Sgt. Darrell Elisaia, squad leader, 1st Plt., Engineer Co., 8th ESB.

The Marines worked during the long, hot day and into the darkest hours of the night to complete the new projects and push out the perimeter.

“We were doing 24-hour operations to help the job go faster,” said Elisaia. “The hardest

parts about this mission were the landing zone and the HIMARS because they required so much heavy equipment support.”

During the mission, Marines experienced various challenges. Some of the machinery had mechanical issues, which slowed down the operation. Also, the timeline for completion was cut by five days. Despite these obstacles, the group overcame adversity.

“Even though our deadline moved closer, I knew we would still get the mission accomplished,” said Elisaia. “Of all my deadlines, I’ve never missed one.”

In just over two weeks, the group completed their mission, met their deadline and remained ready for their next project. The group spent more than 18,000 man hours working tirelessly to finish their biggest mission so far.



Photo by Sgt. Michele Watson

Lance Cpl. Eric Lesemann (left) and Cpl. Emily Warfield, combat engineers with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), set up a concertina-wire perimeter outside of Patrol Base Eredvi, Afghanistan, July 3. The Marines spent more than 18,000 man hours working on the expansion of the PB.

# MORE THAN A GAME

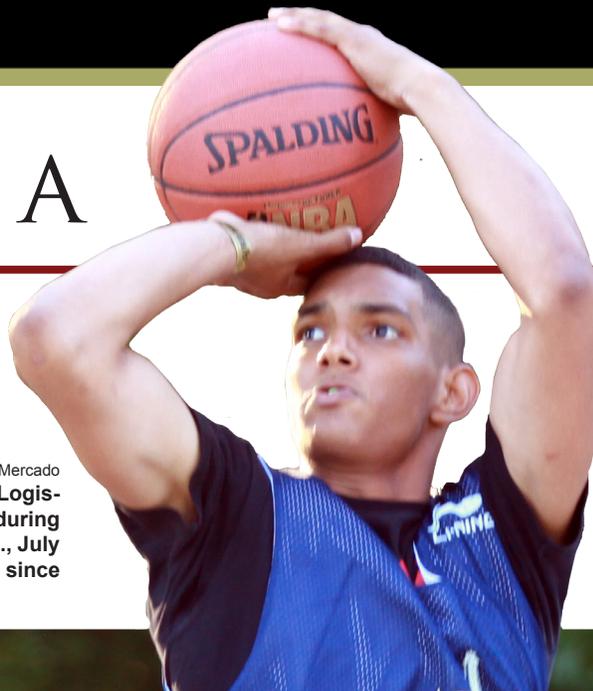


Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

**Pfc. Eddy D. TineoMateo, an administrative specialist with Combat Logistics 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, takes a shot over his opponent during the Red Bull King of the Rock tournament aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 18, 2012. Mateo, a Staten Island, N.Y., native has played basketball since eighth grade and doesn't plan on giving it up.**

## Marine embraces dual role as athlete, servicemember

**Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado**

*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – For some, basketball may be just another sport, but for others it is more than just a game.

Pfc. Eddy D. TineoMateo, an administrative specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, has always played the sport he's now come to know and love.

The 19-year-old Staten Island, N.Y., native has had a long road to this point in his life. While he was still just an infant his parents relocated to the Dominican Republic, where he would live for the majority of his life.

"I moved to [Dominican Republic] and everyone plays baseball out there," TineoMateo explained. "I wanted to be different. I wanted to be good at another sport."

And so he did. Mateo began playing basketball when he started the eighth

## SPORTS

grade. He hasn't looked back since.

"I starting playing for Adotalents," Mateo said. "We had a team with some of the kids from our neighborhood and we did great."

The Adotalents, better known as the Dominican Association for Talent, sponsored a youth group, which sponsored traveling teams.

After 16 years on the small Caribbean island, Mateo moved back to the U.S. where he played competitively in high school, until an injury to his ankle kept him from playing.

Once he moved on from that part of his life, Mateo decided to follow in his parents footsteps and join the military, but

just joining wasn't enough.

"My mother is a lieutenant colonel in the military in the Dominican Republic," Mateo said. "My dad is a retired pilot, so I had to one up them."

Mateo joined the Marine Corps after graduating high school, a decision that he's quite pleased with.

"It was a great thing to do," he said. "Both of my parents served their country, so I wanted to serve mine. I haven't had much time to play basketball, but I still get around to it."

Mateo recently participated in the Red Bull King of the Rock tournament held here, July 18. He made it to the Elite Eight but fell just short after losing a tough game to the eventual tournament champion.

"I haven't consistently played since joining the Marine Corps, so I'm proud," Mateo said. "You don't want to leave with a loss, but I made it pretty far and I can build on this. I'll be back and better next time."

### SAILOR,

continued from Page 3

training sessions and formal classroom instruction. The goal is to reinforce leadership principles among young leaders.

"I thought the course was a way for me to improve my leadership skills and to be at

the same level as some of the Marine [noncommissioned officers] in my shop," he added.

Koch's successful completion of Corporal's Course was followed by a second deployment with the unit to Afghanistan from September 2011 to March 2012.

"I am very proud of what I have done, I am proud of my

deployments and my service alongside Marines," Koch said.

Although Koch's military career has come to an end, his experience in the Navy and the time he spent with the Marines at Camp Lejeune and the Middle East will certainly serve him well as he ventures into a new phase of his life.

Koch will use his educational

funds to attend Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach, Va., where he will pursue his life-long dream of completing his degree in emergency medical services.

"While I am checking out, I feel like I don't want to leave, because this is what I've known for the past five years, but it is time to move on," Koch concluded.

# New CO posts with CLR-2

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Engulfed by the warm air of North Carolina's summer season, troops and guests had the perfect conditions to witness a change of command within the 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

During the morning of July 10, Col. Yori R. Escalante, the outgoing commanding officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 2, relinquished his responsibilities of the unit to Lt. Col. Dwayne A. Whiteside.

Whiteside compiles more than 30 years of service and joins the unit from United States Naval Forces Central Command.

The ceremony was a traditional military event during which guests observed as troops currently assigned to the regiment marched to the rhythm of the 2nd Marine Division Band, and heard words of recognition from the outbound commander.

"This organization in front of you has gone through some of the most dangerous terrain that you could find in Afghani-



Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego  
**Lt. Col. Dwayne A. Whiteside (Left), receives the organizational colors from Col. Yori R. Escalante, the outgoing commanding officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 10.**

stan and they performed magnificently," he expressed as he showed gratitude for the job performed by the troops during his two-year tour with the regiment.

"Every member of Combat Logistics Regiment 2, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the effort, for the enthusiasm and for the wealth to succeed," added Escalante, a resident of Houston.

During his speech, Escalante also made reference to the vast combat history of the command since its activation on February 15, 1941.

He mentioned that throughout 71 years, troops serving with the unit have provided logistical support to infantry units during World War II, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"If you talk to anyone who is in a division, they will say that it is this composition and this capability that makes the division succeed logistically and tactically," Escalante expressed.

After Escalante dedicated a few words to the group of servicemembers, it was evident that the picture-perfect weather was not the only notable aspect of the celebration.

Escalante's remarks were immediately followed by a short speech from Whiteside, a Greensboro, N.C. native.

"I am very happy to be here today," he expressed. "I look forward to working with the Marines and Sailors of this unit."

Shortly after his speech, Whiteside stood at attention in front of his troops and shouted the dismissal command as he began his two-year journey as the regimental commander.

Escalante will remain as a critical asset for logistics in the Marine Corps as he moves on to become the chief of staff for Marine Corps Logistics Command aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

## *8th ESB Marines endure heat during three-week course to become coxswains*

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – The Marine Corps offers a countless number of courses and training that service members can attend in order to advance in their military occupational specialty or learn a new trade.

Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group began the Combat Rubber Reconnaissance

sance Craft Coxswain Course at Onslow Beach here, July 9.

The purpose of the training was to give the designated personnel the certifications needed to properly operate a combat rubber reconnaissance craft.

The 20-day entry level course, which ends August 3, is designed to train a maximum of 25 Marines and is taught by qualified coxswains.

During the training Marines will

learn various skills such as safety procedures, small boat handling, proper knot techniques, engine operations and small boat formations.

The curriculum is large and Marines are expected to learn everything before being put to the test during practical application.

"If you aren't paying attention you can get lost in the sauce fast, and you don't want to be the one singled out," said Pfc. Brett D. Lowery, a combat engineer with 8th ESB.

Marines who fail to meet requirements during the course are given individual counseling in order to overcome what the student

**Continued on next page**

Marines and Sailors with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group hike alongside Sneads Ferry Road aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 19. More than 300 troops marched for approximately four hours during the battalion's monthly physical training session.



Photo by  
Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

## Marines, Sailors set the pace during 8th ESB hike

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Early in the morning, long before sunrise, more than 300 members of 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group formed up and prepared their gear for a hike here, July 19.

Participants marched for more than four hours during the battalion's physical training session, which was meant to increase the unit's combat readiness and cohesion.

"This is the first hike we have done as a battalion," explained Maj. Robert L. Corl, the execu-

tive officer for 8th ESB. "We wanted to instill mental discipline and physical endurance."

During the hike, the Marines and Sailors marched nearly eight miles carrying more than 50 pounds of gear from French Creek to Onslow Beach, where they met with their family members and friends to begin a unit sponsored family day.

"We figured we were going to have fun at the beach with our family and friends, so why not, it would be good training," Corl added.

Corl said the hike is a way to increase the mental toughness troops need, and the family event improves the unit co-

hesion among Marines, Sailors and their family members.

Cpl. Benjamin L. Pritchard, a combat engineer who participated in the hike explained why the event was a good way to motivate him and his fellow Marines and Sailors.

"I think the hike was a great exercise, although it took us a little longer than I thought it would," Pritchard said. "Besides that, I think everyone got something out of it."

"I am really motivated about finishing this hike," he concluded. "It is not something that I personally enjoy doing by myself, but being there marching alongside my friends makes it a lot better."

### Continued from Page 8

may be having a hard time understanding.

Not only has it been a challenge mentally, but physically as well, Lowery continued.

"With this heat, even when we're out in the water I sweat," he said. "We do an exercise called engine appreciation. It's when you simulate an engine outage and have to paddle back to shore, and there's nothing easy about it."

The engine outage routine is a necessity, explained Sgt. Frankie Hines, an instructor with the Special Operations Training Group.

"Marines have to know what to do in any situation," Hines said. "Whether it's hot or cold outside, the boat doesn't know, it'll stop running in any weather."

"They're getting tired now, but the knowledge they gain from this will help them in the future," he said.

Completion of the long course will not be an easy task under the heat conditions of the July sun, and though the training isn't required for any of the Marines, they've tackled the challenge head on.

**COMMANDER**  
COL. MARK R. HOLLAHAN

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

**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**  
CMDMCM RUSSELL W. FOLLEY

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