



The Convoy

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Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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Radio Operator
Personal Security Detachment,
CLB-4



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Keeping Our Honor Clean: EOD TECHNICIANS (Pg. 2)



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Cover Page:

Cpl. Alfredo Salcido, radio operator, Personal Security Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), participated in a combat logistics patrol to Forward Operating Base Zebrugge, Afghanistan, July 11. Salcido provided communications expertise and security during the patrol.

Photo by: Cpl. Mark Stroud

1ST MLG'S VIDEO FEATURE

KEEPING OUR HONOR CLEAN: This is part seven of a series of videos about 1st MLG (Forward) NCOs and their professionalism, hard work and dedication to the mission while deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. This video features the EOD Marines and the work they do to help rid the battlefield of IEDs. This video features soundbites from Sgt. Michael Smith, EOD Technician/Assistant Team Leader; Sgt. Brenden Burnham, EOD Technician/Assistant Team Leader; and Maj. Gen. David Berger, Commanding General, Task Force Leatherneck.

Produced by Sgt. John Jackson.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW ON YOUTUBE.



Tuition Assistance Class

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Joint Education Center offers a 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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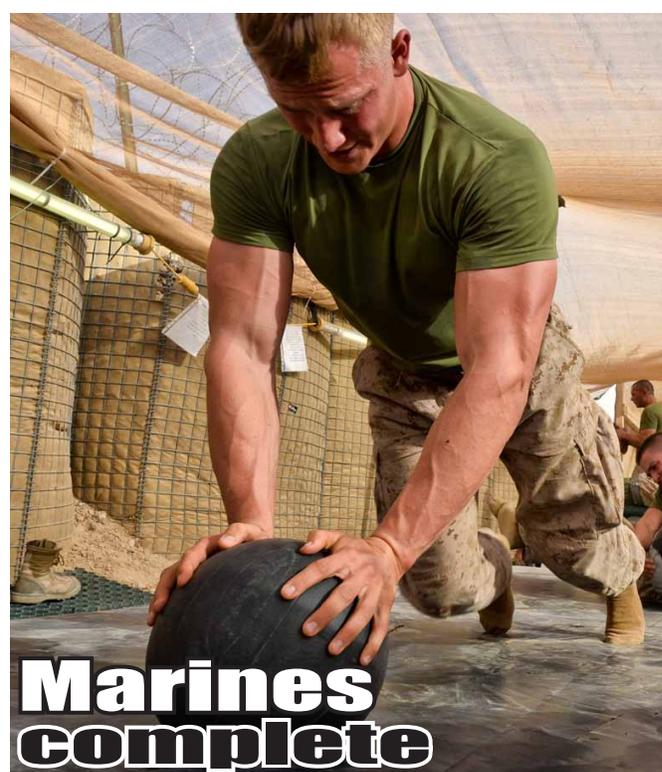


< Cpl. Joshua K. Naylor, watch chief, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), conducts medicine ball pushups during a circuit course at Camp Leatherneck, July 14.

▼ Cpl. Lud G. Romain, assistant supply warehouse chief, H & S Co, CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd), holds a weight at arm's length during a workout.



< Staff Sgt. Christopher B. Milam, instructor, Martial Arts Instructor Course, Bravo Company, CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd), grapples with a student during the final conditioning session.



**Marines
complete**

Martial Arts Instructor Course

Photos by
Cpl. Mark Stroud
CLB-4



▲ A dust storm blows through the workout area during the CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd), Martial Arts Instructor Course's final combat conditioning exercise.

To read the story and see more photos, [click here.](#)

8th ESB tackles biggest mission

PATROL BASE EREDVI, Afghanistan – More than 100 Marines from Engineer Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) completed their largest mission to date in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 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 120 mm mortar site and an area for HIMARS.”

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. “There was so much [heavy equipment] work just to get the force protection for the [Hesco barriers] and the berms.”

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.”

Once the equipment was up and running, the Marines were quick to get back on track.

“As a sergeant, I am supposed to task my corporals and make sure we have enough people out there getting the job done,” said Elisaia. “The platoon works really well together and my team did a great job accomplishing their mission.”

While 1st Plt. started the mission by themselves, they were later joined by 2nd Plt. to help increase the rate of progress during the large operation.

“We came out here to assist 1st Plt. and provide security,” said Sgt. Travis Moser, combat engineer, 2nd Plt., Engineer Co., 8th ESB. “We helped with whatever they needed, like building latrines and hygiene tables. Most of the operation was [done with] heavy equipment but we helped with everything else.”

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.

< Sgt. Darrell Elisaia, squad leader, Engineer Co., 8th ESB, 1st MLG (Fwd), unloads Concertina-wire during a massive expansion operation at Patrol Base Eredvi, Afghanistan, July 3.

v During a massive expansion of Patrol Base Eredvi, Afghanistan, combat engineers with Engineer Co., 8th ESB, 1st MLG (Fwd), conducted their largest mission of this deployment, June 26-July 15.



To see more photos, click here.

CLB-4 Marines keep patrols moving

Story and photos by: Cpl. Mark Stroud
CLB-4

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – “Flat tires, blown transmissions, and even vehicle accidents are common occurrences in the harsh environment and inherent danger of a war zone,” said Staff Sgt. Brendan H. Chamburs, company gunnery sergeant, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “The wrecker section has the responsibility to maintain convoy momentum when things go wrong.”

Cpl. Adam R. Tornatore, a 26-year-old native of Syracuse, N.Y., is one of the wrecker operators tasked with making sure that each vehicle in the convoy makes it to its destination.

Tornatore’s technical expertise and ability to manage the stress and responsibility of such an important billet are the reasons that he earned his nickname, “Duty-Expert.”

“Tornatore has been called upon to recover 80 vehicles so far,” said Chamburs. “He has built a reputation for being the

‘go-to’ Marine for unique and difficult recoveries.”

According to Chamburs, Tornatore has used his extensive mechanical knowledge to conduct field repairs on vehicles and mine rollers.

“When the battalion was in Korea [training], I was in wrecker school,” said Tornatore. “I asked every question I could think of and learned everything I possibly could. This is not a duty you want to take lightly because of how crucial it is.”

The wrecker operator billet and responsibility that goes with it suits Tornatore well.

“I love this job. [Motor Transportation] was fun, but as a wrecker operator you are more of an asset to the convoy,” said Tornatore.

Tornatore appreciates the chance to be in the center of the action.

“I like being ‘boots-on-the-ground’ and seeing what happened [to the downed vehicle] and where it happened,” added Tornatore. “Every once in a while you get small stuff like a downed mine-roller that is

generally the same every time, but once you get into battle damaged trucks, it is different every time.”

This experienced wrecker operator believes that the unique challenge presented by each vehicle he recovers is another part of the job’s appeal.

“Everything comes into play when figuring out how to recover a vehicle,” said Tornatore. “The time of day and available light, the environment you are operating in, your security posture and the presence of choke points or possible ambush spots all help determine how you approach the recovery.”

The condition of the vehicle and the nature of its damage also play a large role in determining how wreckers go about

the recovery, said Tornatore.

“Successfully recovering the vehicle relies on your knowledge of everything about your equipment inside and out. You need to know your lift capacity and whether you can recover the asset with one wrecker or need a second wrecker to help,” said Tornatore. “You also need to use common sense and creativity to figure out the best way to recover the [vehicle].”

All of these factors must be taken into consideration to figure out how to recover a vehicle safely in dangerous operating environments.

“Making sure we maximize the safety of the Marines is the most important thing, especially in the areas we operate,” said Tornatore.



▲ Cpl. Adam R. Tornatore, wrecker operator, Support Company, CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd), examines the engine of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle at Forward Operating Base Zebrugge, July 11.

◀ Cpl. Adam R. Tornatore, wrecker operator, Support Company, CLB-4, 1st MLG (Fwd), rigs an MRAP vehicle for tow following a combat logistics patrol to Combat Outpost Shir Ghazay, July 3.

To see more photos, click here.

Marine advisor builds relations with Afghans

Story by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer



▲ Staff Sgt. Harry Petit-Homme, transportation advisor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), works with Afghan National Army soldiers with the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade at Camp Garmser, Afghanistan. (Courtesy Photo)

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan – In 2001, a surge of applicants lined up at the doors of recruiting offices, eager for a chance to defend the nation's honor after the terrorist attacks on our nation. For Staff Sergeant Harry Petit-Homme, his choice to join the Marine Corps had already been made.

"I had already joined the Delayed Entry Program and when 9/11 happened, my shipping date got pushed back a couple weeks," said Petit-Homme. "Going through boot camp there was a lot of talk of going to war."

Petit-Homme was born in Nassau, Bahamas and lived there until 1997, when his mother moved their family to the United States. Originally from Haiti, his parents had a negative view of the military.

"The military was basically the president's gangsters in Haiti, so my family's perception about the military isn't what it's like in the U.S.," said Petit-Homme. "My family thought I was crazy for signing up."

After six years in service, Petit-Homme finally obtained his U.S. citizenship.

"It was an accomplishment for me but also something I did for my mom," said Petit-Homme. "She was the one who got our family our green cards and she had always been the one who wanted to become a citizen."

As a career Marine, Petit-Homme chose recruiting as his special duty assignment, returning to Mi-

ami to enlist future warriors.

"The station I was recruited out of is the same exact station where I became [staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge]," said Petit-Homme. "Being able to end up where I started out was rewarding. It was a good point for me to be able to show how far I've come."

Throughout his enlistment, Petit-Homme has had the chance to travel the world. As part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, he visited many places including Thailand, Guam and Korea. When he was stationed in Spain, he visited countries throughout Western Europe and worked with the French Marines.

"Travelling was one of the main things I wanted to do, and the Marine Corps has helped me accomplish the goals that I set for myself," said Petit-Homme.

In 2004, Petit-Homme deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is currently serving on a second combat deployment in Afghanistan as an advisor to the Afghan National Army. As part of the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), he works as the transportation advisor to the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade at Camp Garmser, Afghanistan.

"Right now we're helping the Afghan people stand on their own two feet," said Petit-Homme. "This is a country that has been at war for 30 to 40 years. Being here and giving them guidance is very

important."

Petit-Homme said his previous experience working with foreign militaries in Europe helps him in his current billet.

"Basically we were strengthening relations with partner nations, and here I am four years later, trying to develop that relationship with Afghanistan," he said. "Partnering has been around the Marine Corps for a long time but it's kind of like we're making history here."

Growing up in the Bahamas, Petit-Homme said he feels he can relate better to the ANA soldiers he works with.

"Because I grew up in a different country, I am better able to understand the shortfalls of a different culture," said Petit-Homme. "I treat the soldiers like I would want to be treated and try to help them figure out their shortfalls. If you tell them to do something but don't explain the purpose, they will do it now, but once we're gone, they won't do it again because they don't understand it."

Petit-Homme said he is thankful for the opportunity to work as a part of the EPT and have the chance to make a difference in someone else's life.

"Doing this type of work is the kind of thing that keeps me in the Corps," said Petit-Homme. "The experience has been outstanding and I'm grateful to have this job. It's not just me teaching [the ANA] but learning from them as well."

Roanoke native serves Corps, lives up to family tradition

Story and photo by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

PATROL BASE EREDVI, Afghanistan – Each Marine has his or her own personal reason for joining the Corps, whether it is a sense of duty to one's country, a chance to travel the world, or tradition. For Cpl. Dustin Carlton, it was all of the above.

"My great grandfather served with Chesty Puller," said Carlton, 23, a native of Roanoke, Va. "All of my family has served in the military."

After following in his family's footsteps, Carlton said he is grateful for the opportunities the Marine Corps has afforded him.

"There is no other job in the world that would let me serve my

country as a tow truck driver," said Carlton. "I have been able to see so many different places through my job."

Since he joined in early 2007, Carlton has traveled to more than 20 countries with the Marine Corps. In addition to combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, Carlton also deployed in support of Africa Partnership Station 10 where he visited multiple countries in Africa and worked with foreign militaries. At the beginning of the deployment, his small Marine detachment was rerouted to Haiti because of a catastrophic earthquake. While there, Carlton participated in humanitarian operations by giving

food and water to Haitians in need.

"I love being deployed," said Carlton. "I love all the experiences I have had and it's always a good time, no matter where I go."

Stationed out of Camp Lejeune, Carlton is a member of 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), currently forward deployed to Afghanistan. Working with different companies within 8th ESB, he is responsible for providing tow capabilities to military vehicles that break down and cannot be fixed quickly.

"The thing I love most about my job is it's just me and my [assistant] driver," said Carlton. "Sometimes

we tow vehicles and sometimes we fix them... I love my job and I'm great at what I do."

With only a short time left in this tour, Carlton is ready to wrap up another deployment. He said he looks forward to seeing his family but would never want to miss the opportunity to travel.

"I miss my family and I miss home but I love deployments," said Carlton. "It's bittersweet."



1st Dental Battalion conducts change of command, retirement ceremony

Story and photos by: Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS
BASE CAMP
PENDLETON,
Calif. — Sailors with 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a change of command ceremony here, July 20, to bid farewell to their former commanding officer and welcome their new commander.

This ceremony also closed the final chapter of Navy Capt. John W. Kirby's military career as he retired from the U.S.

Navy.

Kirby transferred command of 1st Dental Battalion to Navy Capt. William N. Norman.

Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, commanding general, 1st MLG, wrote a letter addressing both the incoming and outgoing commanding officers.

"Niel [Norman], as you take command, know that you will be inheriting a proven battalion, one capable of accomplishing all that is required both in garrison and forward

deployed," said Broadmeadow. "Karen and I welcome you as a member of the largest and best Marine expeditionary force in the Marine Corps."

Broadmeadow stated that he knew Norman was the perfect man for the job. With his background as Director of Dental Services for Marine Corps Recruiting Depot Parris Island, S.C., Norman is no stranger to leading and executing orders to accomplish the mission.

"The 1st Dental Battalion here on Camp Pendleton has a great reputation for clinical excellence, staff development, customer service and high operational readiness," said Norman. "It is my intent to continue the legacy that Captain Kirby and the command have established. I look forward to working with you in the future."

As Norman assumed duty as 1st Dental Battalion's commanding officer, the retirement ceremony for Kirby began. In his letter, Broadmeadow said to Kirby:

"Jack [Kirby], as you relinquish command of 1st Dental Battalion/Naval Dental Center, rest assured that your numerous accomplishments will become the building blocks for

the continued success of this battalion,"

"You have every right to feel proud. Through the last three years, your officers, sailors and civilians met every challenge and every task despite a high operational tempo ... As you enter this new phase in your life, I am thankful for your friendship and camaraderie. You have both influenced those around you and set the example for others to follow. I bid you fair winds and following seas."

Kirby took the floor one last time to address his sailors and guests.

"Life is a journey and this has been a great portion of my life," said Kirby. "It's been a great ride. As you go along, you pick up family members. The Navy has been a member of my family since 1983. As for my dental battalion family, you mean a lot to me. Some of you are going forward, some just got back and some currently deployed. It doesn't matter where you are, you do a great job and I am very proud of you. Because of your hard work and dedication I can stand here and say proudly that I am the commanding officer of 1st Dental Battalion. I salute you and thank you."



▲ Navy Capt. John W. Kirby, outgoing commanding officer, 1st Dental Battalion, 1st MLG, pipes ashore for the last time as he relinquishes all duties as commanding officer and retires from the U.S. Navy during a ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 20.

> Navy Capt. John W. Kirby, outgoing commanding officer, 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, salutes during the playing of the national anthem at a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 20. Kirby relinquished all duties as commanding officer and retired from the U.S. Navy.



To see more photos, click here.

7th ESB conducts change of command

Story and photos by: Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

— Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a change of command ceremony here, July 20.

Lt. Col. Daniel H. Dubbs, after leading “The Big Red Seven” since November 2010, relinquished command to Lt. Col. John D. Martinko.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve with these Marines,” said Dubbs. “I want to thank God for giving me the

wisdom and the stamina to lead this great battalion.”

After his introduction, Dubbs requested all attendees to take a moment to recognize the Marines who have made the ultimate sacrifice during his 20-month tenure with the battalion and to pray for a speedy recovery for those currently injured.

He took a break from his speech to address the Marines in the battalion.

“Marines, you’ve done an outstanding job,” said Dubbs.

“Day in and day out, no matter what you’ve been assigned, you do it well. Words just aren’t enough to express how proud I am and how appreciative I am for the effort you put forth over the last 20 months in operations around the world.”

Dubbs said he wasn’t ready to leave the battalion, but knows 7th ESB will continue to thrive under Martinko’s leadership.

In 1994, Martinko was assigned to 7th ESB; it was his first duty station. Martinko said

he was excited to return as their commanding officer.

Martinko, taking on the role and all the responsibilities of 7th ESB, hopes to do great things with the battalion. He addressed his Marines during the ceremony.

“Marines, thank you for continuing to show your excellence in everything you do. I look forward to working with each and every one of you, getting to know each of you as we continue to take our battalion and lead from the front,” Martinko said.



▲ Lt. Col. Daniel H. Dubbs, outgoing commanding officer, 7th ESB, 1st MLG



▲ Lt. Col. John D. Martinko, incoming commanding officer, 7th ESB, 1st MLG



To see more photos, [click here.](#)