



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

June 8, 2010
Issue 55



CLB-6 Honors Purple Heart Recipients during Memorial Day service



Photo by Sgt. Justin Shemanski

Sgt. Johnnie Portis, a maintenance Marine with Headquarters and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) joins the rest of the battalion for a brief prayer during the Memorial Day service and award ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 31. As part of the service, five Marines from Alpha Co., CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD), were awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained while supporting combat operations in Helmand province.

Story by
Sgt. Justin Shemanski
Combat Logistics Battalion 6

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Five Marines from Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) were presented with Purple Heart Medals in a ceremony here, May 31.

Lt. Col. Mike Lepson, battalion commander of CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD), presented each medal for injuries suffered during actions executed in direct support of combat operations in Helmand province. The Marines receiving the medals, Staff Sgt. D'Andre Gillion, Cpl. Jeremy Salsberry, Lance Cpl. Amanda Trombley, Lance Cpl. Zachary Lohr and Lance Cpl. Thomas Rea, were honored as part a Memorial Day service held within the battalion compound.

“Since our inception, the Marine Corps has found itself facing our nation's toughest foes,” said Lepson. “Marines, you're all a part of that story. You're adding another chapter to that book and as we move forward, let's take a moment to reflect on this day of remembrance.”

The battalion commander was
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Purple Heart for MP



Photo by Lance Cpl Kenneth Jasik
Cpl. Joshua Allen Braaten, 22, Waukesha, Wis., Military Police officer, MP Detachment, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, is presented with the Purple Heart by Col. Bruce E. Nickle, at the CLR-17 motor pool, May 28.

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7th ESB Marines awarded for 'heroic actions' during Leatherneck fire



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

(From left to right) Sgt. Wesley M. Slattery, Cpl. Nalton B. Antonio, Cpl. Wayne G. Watkins, Lance Cpl. Benjamin J. Johnson and Lance Cpl. Ryan M. Williams, heavy equipment operators with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), were presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals by the 1st MLG (FWD) commanding general, Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, May 25.

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AWARD

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followed by Navy Lt. David Alexander, the chaplain for CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD), who after a few comments of his own, offered a moment of silence for those who've made the ultimate sacrifice.

"... To those who never had the chance to receive their Purple Hearts on this side of eternity," said Alexander.

Following the ceremony, the five humbled medal recipients received words of encouragement, hugs and handshakes from their brothers and sisters in arms. Somewhere amid the formalities, however, it seemed that more sobering thoughts were on everyone's mind. Some Marines didn't know whether "congratulations" were appropriate for an award that was earned so close to death's doorstep, while a few of the recipients themselves pondered their own mortality.

"This kind of award makes me think of the sacrifices everyone makes here and even the sacrifices I make," said Rea, a native of Saugerties, N.Y. "I'm thankful to be alive."

Lohr takes solace in knowing someone, or perhaps something, has always got his back.

"For the longest time, you kind of feel like no one is watching over you," said Lohr, native of Bucyrus, Ohio. "Then when something like this happens, you know there's always someone there."

Established by George Washington in 1792, the Purple Heart is the oldest award given to American service members. It is typically bestowed only upon those wounded or killed in action as a result of military operations against enemy forces.

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Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar (From left to right) Staff Sgt. D'Andre Gillon, Cpl. Jeremy Salsberry and Lance Cpls. Amanda Trombley, Thomas Rea and Zachary Lohr, salute their commanding officer upon receiving Purple Heart Medals during a Memorial Day service and awards ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 31.

HEROIC

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Story by
Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Forward Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Five Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), were awarded for their efforts to help contain a fire at the Supply Management Unit lot here, May 16.

The fire broke out at the SMU lot, which destroyed most of the supply inventory and the Repairable Issue Point inventory, to include uniform items, medical supplies, construction materials and repair parts. As the fire began to spread to nearby facilities, several Marines responded to help contain the blaze.

For their actions that night, Sgt. Wesley M. Slattery, Cpl. Nalton B. Antonio, Cpl. Wayne G. Watkins, Lance Cpl. Benjamin J. Johnson and Lance Cpl. Ryan M. Williams, heavy equipment operators with 7th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from the commanding general of 1st MLG (FWD), May 25.

"Your actions were nothing but heroic," said Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general of 1st MLG (FWD). "You put yourself in harm's way. We talk about running to the sound of the guns. Well, this time you were moving to the smoke of the fire."

As the fire grew out of control, the five Marines rushed to the fire with their Medium Crawler Tractors and helped create fire lanes for vehicles and personnel to get out, recalled Hudson, 51, from Zirconia, N.C. Then they moved boxes to create a barrier and prevent the fire from spreading to the nearby fuel farm.

In addition to helping contain the fire, a sand storm rolled in, which impeded



Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar (Left) Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, 51, from Zirconia, North Carolina, commanding general of 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), congratulates Lance Cpl. Ryan M. Williams, from Waterbury, Conn., heavy equipment operator with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG (FWD), after presenting the Marines with Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, May 25. Five Marines from 7th ESB were awarded NAM's for their 'heroic actions' in helping contain a fire at the Supply Management Unit lot on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 16. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

the Marines' efforts, fanning the flames and hindering their visibility significantly, making it even more difficult to contain. But the Marines were determined to tame the inferno and salvage what supplies they could.

According to the Marines' Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal citations, "facing the fire in burning debris, [they] continued clearing, despite the effects of compressed gas explosions and a severe sand storm."

"Great, I can't see," was the first thought that came into my mind," said Antonio, 22, from Albuquerque, N.M. "Our actions that night, it might be courageous and heroic like everyone said. But at the same time, it was a little bit frightening. I was a little nervous. We got so close to the fire pushing stuff, we couldn't see anything."

At one point, their tractors appeared to catch fire, so the Marines got out

of the dozers, cleared them off and pushed through, recalled Hudson after presenting the Marines their medals.

"It's awesome that we got the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, but I don't think that any of us were going in there thinking we'd get something out of it at all," said Slattery, 26, from Yuba City, Calif. "All we were concerned about was saving whatever we could for the units that are operating forward. The major concern was that it would hamper their missions."

Having just completed their seven-month tour, the Marines are heading home with their heads held high, knowing they have contributed to the creation of a new chapter in the history of 7th ESB.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik Cpl. Joshua Allen Braaten, 22, Waukesha, Wis., Military Police officer, MP Detachment, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, is presented with the Purple Heart by Col. Bruce E. Nickle, at the CLR-17 motor pool, May 28. Braaten received the award after his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device March 5.

7th ESB homecoming



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik Cpl. Robert J. Wright, Charlie Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and his wife, Kerry S. Wright as he returns to the 22 Area parade deck here, May 30.

9th ESB joins 1st MLG for support



Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

(Left) Sgt. Maj. Timothy L. Shatto, 46, from Orrick, Mo., battalion sergeant major for 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Lt. Col. Phillip N. Frieze, 44, from Mesilla, N.M., commanding officer for 7th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), case the colors to symbolize the end of 7th ESB's deployment in Afghanistan, May 24. A transfer of authority ceremony was held to welcome Marines with 9th ESB to the 1st MLG (FWD) team.



Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

(Right) Lt. Col. Phillip N. Frieze, 44, from Mesilla, N.M., commanding officer for 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Sgt. Maj. Timothy L. Shatto, 46, from Orrick, Mo., battalion sergeant major for 7th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), case the colors to symbolize the end of 7th ESB's deployment in Afghanistan, May 24.



Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Marines from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), conduct a transfer of authority ceremony, completing their deployment and 'passing the torch' to 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), May 24. Marines with 9th ESB are ready to pick up where 7th ESB left off.



Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, 51, from Zirconia, N.C., commanding general for 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), wishes the Marines of 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG (FWD), a safe return home after completing their seven-month tour in Afghanistan, May 24. Seventh ESB transferred authority to 9th ESB. Hudson said he is grateful for what 7th ESB has accomplished and is looking forward to the same result from the Marines of 9th ESB.



Photo by Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

(Right) Lt. Col. Ted A. Adams, 44, from Polson, Mont., commanding officer for 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and Sgt. Maj. James N. Calbough, 38, from Louisville, Ky., battalion sergeant major for 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), finish uncasing the colors, symbolizing the beginning of their official duty with 1st MLG (FWD) in Afghanistan, May 24.

Happenings

Barracks Bash

Come and participate in the 14 area Barracks Bash at building 14104. Barbecue starts at 7 p.m. and movie at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a rock climbing wall and sumo-suit wrestling. Twenty "101 Days of Summer" points will be earned per Marine or sailor just for coming to the event. For more information please contact Danielle West (725-6722) or Christina Chilleme (763-1112).

2010 Ken Grody Ford Beach Bash

Del Mar Beach is the place to be on Sunday, July 4! The 2010 Ken Grody Ford Beach Bash, presented by MCCC, will feature: live bands, exciting kids' activities, volleyball tournaments, heroes' video, fireworks show and the drawing for a brand new Ken Grody 2011 Ford Fiesta. Hit the sand, surf early and plan to stay late.

Father's Day Barbecue

Join us for our Father's Day BBQ luncheon Sunday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pacific Views South Mesa Club. Reservations required. Call (760) 725-2231.

Eagle's Landing Bar

Come experience the Eagle's Landing bar and banquet room, building 18415 at the Marine Memorial Golf Course. The establishment is open to the public and features food, drinks and outdoor seating overlooking golf course. This venue is available for a variety of catered events for up to groups of 150. For more information call (760) 725 4481.

New Store Hours

The Country Store now has extended its Sunday hours and will be open until 8 p.m.

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For more information or ideas that you want to see in this publication, please contact the 1st MLG Public Affairs Office at (760) 763-7795.

Photos from the 1st Marine Logistics Group

Dawn Blitz



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. Medina
Amphibious Assault Vehicles with 3rd Amphibian Assault Battalion, raid Camp Pendleton's Red Beach as an array of CH-46 Sea Knight, CH-53 Sea Stallion, UH-1Y and AH-1 Cobra helicopters provided aerial support during training exercise Dawn Blitz, May 24 to June 4.



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. Medina
Amphibious Assault Vehicles with 3rd Amphibian Assault Battalion, raid Camp Pendleton's Red Beach as an array of CH-46 Sea Knight, CH-53 Sea Stallion, UH-1Y and AH-1 Cobra helicopters provided aerial support during training exercise Dawn Blitz, May 24 to June 4.



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. Medina
Marines with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, drive their Light Armored Reconnaissance vehicles onto Red Beach during training exercise Dawn Blitz, May 24 to June 4. These vehicles were brought ship to shore by Landing Craft Air Cushions with Assault Craft Unit 5, stationed at Camp Pendleton.



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. Medina
Marines with 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, off-load their M198 Howitzer on to Red Beach at Camp Pendleton, during training exercise Dawn Blitz, May 24 to June 4. These vehicles were brought ship to shore by Landing Craft Air Cushions with Assault Craft Unit 5, stationed at Camp Pendleton.