

Fallen Marine honored for service



Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Camp Pendleton staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines, friends and family members of Gunnery Sgt. Christopher L. Eastman gathered at the base chapel to remember the fallen explosive ordnance disposal technician from 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, July 28.

The Marines who knew Eastman said he was a Marine who stood out from others he worked with.

“His level of initiative and his very strong work ethic set him apart from others,” said Master Sgt. Richard D. Oldham, 3rd Platoon Sergeant, 1st EOD Co.,

7th ESB, 1st MLG.

EOD Marines who worked with Eastman said he was a Marine who was always able to expand and test their knowledge. He had a great impact on his unit.

“He was a good example for everyone else,” said Oldham 40, Cleveland. “[He had a] will and ability to teach people and always made an effort to learn. He was very smart.”

Eastman was a Marine who held himself to a high standard, even among Marines.

“Gunnery Sgt. Eastman was one of the most professional people I knew,” said Staff. Sgt. Jordan B. Emrick, EOD technician, 1st EOD Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. “You could always count on him for an honest, unbiased opinion. He put his all into every day both at work and with his family.”

Eastman, the hard working team member, is survived by his wife, Rocio, and daughter, Joy.

“My heart goes out to him and his family,” said Oldham. “He was one-of-a-kind, and a great individual.”

Eastman would’ve done anything he could to take care of his family.

“He was a very devoted family man,” said Oldham.



Marines honor fallen comrade, Gunnery Sgt. Christopher L. Eastman, explosive ordnance disposal technician, 1st Explosive Ordnance Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics group, during a funeral service at the main side chapel, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 28. Eastman died while supporting operations in Afghanistan.

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CLB-6 Marine awarded for valor in Afghanistan

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
Combat Logistics Battalion 6

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – When duty calls, Corporal Rory MacEachern fires back with precision, and for his efforts in support of International Security Assistance Force operations he was awarded for valor in a ceremony here, July 30.

MacEachern, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device by his commanding officer, Maj. William Stophel.

During combat logistics patrols ranging from March through May, the North Attleboro, Mass., native, distinguished himself through

superior performance of his duties as a machine gunner.

On one occasion while serving as a Mark II .50 caliber machine gun operator, MacEachern’s convoy came under heavy small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire. Due to his vigilance, he was able to identify the enemy fighter and after engaging with his crew served weapon, the threat was eliminated.

On yet another instance,

MacEachern proved himself just as effective when equipped with a MK-19 Grenade Launcher.

While providing security during the evacuation of a wounded comrade, the convoy came under indirect fire. Amid the chaos of sustained enemy fire, the calm and collected MacEachern was able to eliminate two enemy grenadiers

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'Wounded Warrior' facility: helping injured Marines get back to the fight

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
Afghanistan staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Lance Cpl. Frank Martin had only been in Afghanistan a few days when a 60-pound improvised explosive device detonated while he and his squad were on their first foot patrol in northern Marjah, hurling him into the air.

"It actually picked me up off my feet and I did a one-eighty," said Martin, infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. "When I hit the ground the first thing I thought was, 'oh crap, someone got hit.'

After the dust settled, Martin quickly realized he had been hit – pieces of shrapnel were lodged in his legs, forearm and neck. The two Marines behind him were more badly injured by the blast, and they had to be flown back to the United States for a higher level of medical treatment.

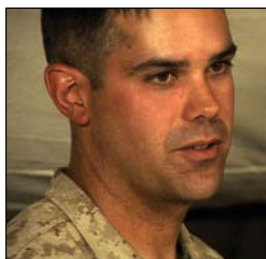
Martin, 24, from Avon Lake, Ohio, considers himself lucky. His shrapnel injuries were far less severe – only flesh wounds – so he was stitched up at the military hospital on Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, and sent to the newly-established "Wounded Warrior" facility that aims to help service members with minor war wounds heal and get back to their deployed units.

Injured troops are only allowed to stay at the hospital on Camp Bastion for a few days, due to limited bed space, before they have to be flown elsewhere for long-term care, such as Kandahar, Germany or the United States. But with the new addition of the Wounded Warrior facility they can stay at Leatherneck to receive additional outpatient care.

The Wounded Warrior facility here, which opened in April, is run by corpsmen with 1st Marine Logistics



Lance Cpl. Frank Martin has his stitches checked by corpsmen.

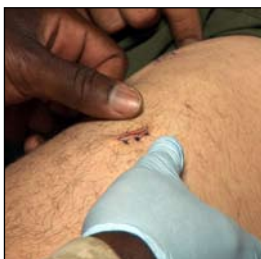


Petty Officer 2nd Class James Jenkins

Group (Forward) whose sole purpose is to monitor the injured service members and ensure they get regular check-ups at the medical clinic right down the road – a short 50-foot walk from their tents. Adjacent to the medical clinic is the Combat Stress Center, should troops need to see a counselor.

The facilities can accommodate up to 54 service members and are made up of several large berthing tents and a lounge area, complete with entertainment, snacks and a large TV. The facility is similar to, but not affiliated with, the two Wounded Warrior Battalions located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., which assist injured Marines and sailors throughout their phases of recovery.

Of the nearly 250 injured service members who have passed through Wounded Warrior, more than 80 percent of them have returned to their units,



Corpsmen assess stitches

according to Petty Officer 2nd Class James Jenkins, a corpsman with 1st MLG (FWD) who helps run the Wounded Warrior facility.

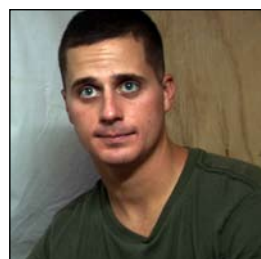
"I make sure they're getting better, getting everything they need, and getting them back to their units so they can do what they do best," said Jenkins, 28, from Lees Summit, Miss.

Time to heal

At 9 a.m. every morning, the injured Marines make their way from their tents to the lounge where Jenkins does roll call and confirms medical appointments.

"You have your appointment this Thursday, correct, sir?" Jenkins asks a Marine lieutenant whose left foot was grazed by gunfire. Jenkins takes note of his appointment in his log book.

The corpsmen serve as liaisons between the Marines and their care providers, tracking their appointments and treatment progress. The most



Lance Cpl. Frank Martin

common injuries they see are concussions from IED blasts and gunshot wounds, but they also house Marines with non-combat related injuries like appendicitis or ankle sprains. If a Marine's injuries are too severe, however, they are sent to a higher level of care outside of Camp Leatherneck.

After morning roll call, the Marines go about their day, taking it easy, watching TV and attending medical appointments as needed.

Martin makes the short walk from the Wounded Warrior lounge to the Combined Aid Station (CAS) every three days to have his stitches looked at. One by one, he peels away the bandages that cover each of his six stitches; he winces in pain and half-jokingly says, "It's worse pulling off the Band-aids than when I got hit."

The doc takes a look at his wounds and determines they are healing nicely, but advises him to keep them

clean and hands him a pack of fresh bandages meant to last until his next visit. After the 15-minute appointment, Martin makes the short walk back to the Wounded Warrior lounge and plops down on the couch next to the others.

Temporarily removed from their units and the mission, the facility offers the service members a chance to heal in a relaxed setting while being surrounded by other wounded Marines from other forward operating bases in Helmand Province.

"At least when you're over here you still feel like you're a part of something," said Martin. "You're with other guys and you can talk about what happened."

Martin will be with Wounded Warrior until his stitches are removed and he's given the green light to return to full duty. He looks forward to getting back out on more patrols.

"We got out here not too long ago, so I'm excited to get back to them," he said.

'Hope they never return'

Depending on the severity of their injuries, service members can stay anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.

"My favorite part is getting to know a lot of the guys down here," said Jenkins. "Spending a lot of time with them every single day, you do make a lot of good friends."

About two weeks after his arrival, Martin's stitches were removed and the docs allowed him to return to full duty. He packed up his few belongings and returned to 2/6 in Marjah, July 28.

For the corpsmen, watching their new friends leave Wounded Warrior is bittersweet.

"It's hard to see them go," said Jenkins, "but it's actually good because some guys get better treatment, and a lot of guys go back to their unit. But you just hope they never return."

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AWARD

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and a mortar team while displaying expert precision with his designated weapon, actions which allowed the convoy to safely exit the danger area and continue with its mission.

Though he may have been the one pulling the trigger, the humble Marine made it clear that the actions for which he was awarded for were the result of nothing more than team effort.

“At one point, Lance Cpl. [Anthony] Johnson was actually pointing out the threats for me, directing my fire,” said MacEachern. “We worked together to move our truck into position, and once I was able to positively identify the enemy, I engaged.”

MacEachern noted that one of the logistics patrols was moving a bit slower than usual, but enemy threat was low and little more than an improvised explosive device or two were expected. Regardless, the gunner and his team remained aware of their surroundings and acted appropriately.

Alpha Company’s First Sgt. James Gillespie would have expected nothing less from a Marine of MacEachern’s stature.

“He’s an outstanding young Marine and was our choice for being combat meritoriously promoted to his current rank,” said Gillespie, a native of Stafford, Va.

“Being able to make those kinds of decisions; the correct decisions, in this environment says a lot about

him,” said Gillespie. “Someone else in his position could have hesitated for too long or just opened fire without taking everything into consideration first, but being the experienced gunner he is, he did an outstanding job.”

While MacEachern realizes the meaning behind receiving the small bronze “V” pinned to the orange

and green ribbon of his new medal, he said he and his fellow Marines did exactly what others would have done in their shoes.

“It’s just one of those, ‘right place, at the right time’ kind of things,” he said. “For me, today is just another day in Afghanistan.”

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Corporal Rory MacEachern, a military policeman with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), is congratulated by his commanding officer, Maj. William Stophel, upon being awarded a medal.

Happenings

Town Hall Meeting

The Commanding Officer, MCB Camp Pendleton cordially invites you to attend a Town Hall Meeting for the Wire Mountain District family housing area on Thursday, Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. For more information please call (760) 725-9723.

Mad Hatter’s Tea Party

Many family members will celebrate a birthday without their Marine this year. You are cordially invited to Wonderland for a tea party to celebrate! The party will take place at the San Luis Rey Club Saturday, Aug. 21 at 2:30 p.m. Bring a gift valued at 10 dollars to exchange and wear a crazy hat! Don’t forget to RSVP to nori.jackson@usmc.mil.

Forrest Griffin

The top ranked light-heavy-weight mixed martial arts fighter, Forrest Griffin, will be at the Mainside Country Store for a book signing Aug. 8, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please call (760) 725-6233.

Surf lessons

Come and enjoy surf lessons, July 2 to Sept. 6 at Del Mar beach. Whether you are a beginner or advanced surfer, this class is for you. For more information call (760) 429-8236.

Want to share an event?

Send your happenings to firstmlg@yahoo.com. The Convoy staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Pertussis Vaccine Available at NHCP, Branch Health Clinics

Press Release by Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.— The California Department of Public Health recently declared an epidemic of pertussis, or whooping cough, citing 910 confirmed cases since January 2010. The CDPH warned that the state is on pace to suffer the most illnesses and deaths due to pertussis in 50 years.

Pertussis is mostly dangerous to

infants, but anyone can catch it.

The Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton medical staff encourages children enrolled to the hospital to get vaccinated. In addition, parents, family members and caregivers of infants need to be vaccinated.

Pregnant women may be vaccinated against pertussis before pregnancy, during pregnancy or after giving birth. Fathers and siblings may be vaccinated at any time, preferably before the birth of a new baby.

Beneficiaries enrolled to NHCP can be vaccinated by appointment or on a walk-in basis at their primary care clinic during normal clinic hours. To make an appointment, call (760) 725-4357, option one.

Active duty military members serving in the Camp Pendleton area should go to their respective aid station to be vaccinated.

All TRICARE beneficiaries not enrolled to NHCP should contact their network Primary Care Provider for information about vaccinations.

The Convoy Staff

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- Marines.mil
- dvidshub.net/units/1-MLG
- facebook:

Group name “1st Marine Logistics Group”

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.

Transfer of Authority

(Left) Sgt. Maj. Tracy Linch, the battalion sergeant major for Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Lt. Col. Brian Wolford, commanding officer, CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD), uncasing the battalion colors as they take over responsibility of CLB-6's area of responsibility during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 31.



First Sgt. Raquel Painter, the battalion sergeant major of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Maj. William Stophel, commanding officer, CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD), retire the battalion colors during the transfer of authority with CLB-2, 1st MLG (FWD), at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 31. 'The Red Cloud Battalion' has spent the last seven months providing logistical support to Regimental Combat Team 2 in areas to include Sangin, Musa Qal'eh and Now Zad, providing everything from food and fuel to ammunition. Click photo to view video package.

CLB-6 passes reigns to CLB-2 in Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
Combat Logistics Battalion 6

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan –

Signaling the end of their deployment in support of combat operations in Helmand Province, Combat Logistics Battalion 6 retired their organizational colors as Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) took charge during a transfer of authority ceremony here, July 31.

The "Red Cloud Battalion" has spent the last seven months providing logistical support to Regimental Combat Team 2 in areas to include

Sangin, Musa Qal'eh and Now Zad, providing everything from food and fuel to ammunition.

During the course of nearly 100 combat logistics patrols within the battlespace, the Marines of CLB-6, 1st MLG (FWD) have traveled more than 190,000 miles hauling 20 million pounds of personnel, supplies and equipment, and have performed 160 vehicle recoveries for RCT-2 personnel and other coalition forces. In addition to numerous and sometimes prolonged periods of small arms, indirect and rocket propelled grenade fire, the Marines encountered nearly 100 improvised explosive devises during operations in the region.

The Marines of CLB-6 hit the ground running and true to their dedicated nature, they concluded their last combat logistics patrol less than six hours prior to the ceremony.

"Your tour of duty here in support of RCT-2 has been one of remarkable expertise and accomplishment," said Brig. Gen. Charles Hudson, the commanding general of 1st MLG (FWD) as he addressed those in attendance.

Major William Stophel, the commanding officer of CLB-6, mentioned determination and drive as the keys to battalion's success.

"We've certainly come a long way," said Stophel. "It was daunting task laid before the battalion and they

rose to the challenge. They never stopped."

The commanding officer of CLB-2, Lt. Col. Brian Wolford, vowed to continue such excellence in the support of RCT-2.

"We are proud to be here and are ready to carry on the legacy of the 1st Marine Logistics Group," he said.

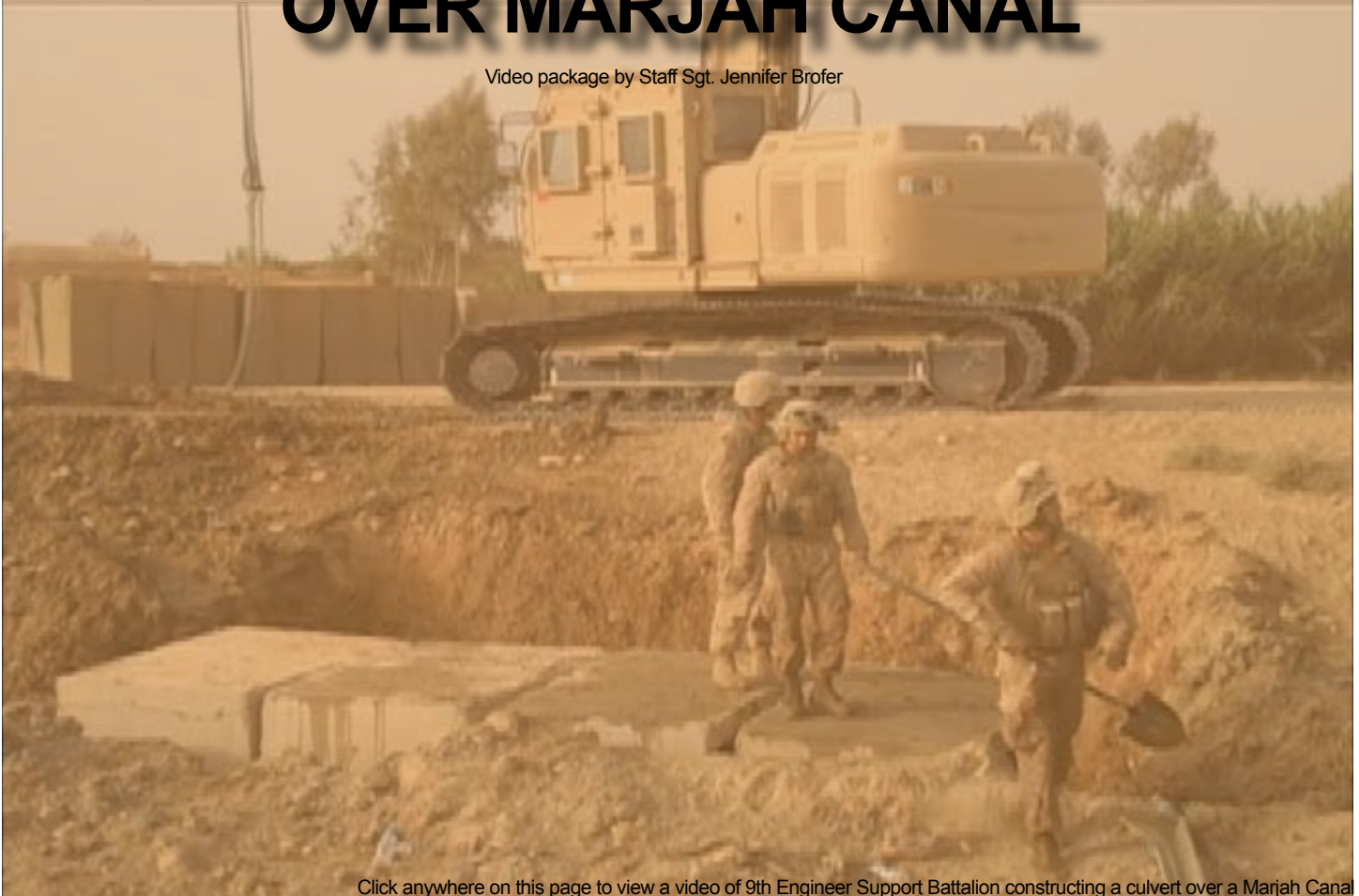
As the Marines and sailors of CLB-6 make final preparations to return stateside next month, those belonging to CLB-2 are ready to carve their own path through the deserts of Afghanistan.

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MARINE ENGINEERS ≡≡≡ construct culvert crossing ≡≡≡ OVER MARJAH CANAL

Video package by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer



[Click anywhere on this page to view a video of 9th Engineer Support Battalion constructing a culvert over a Marjah Canal](#)