

'Heartbeat' of combat operations

Landing Support Detachment keeps troops resupplied, in the fight

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Afghanistan Staff

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – In the six months the Landing Support Marines with the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group here have been deployed to Afghanistan, they have already coordinated the throughput of millions of pounds of cargo and thousands of passengers throughout Helmand Province.

One of the major functions of the A/DACG is transporting service members to and from forward operating bases in theater. It also receives inbound deploying troops and redeploys individuals back to the United States. To date, more than 60,000 passengers have been transported in and out of Afghanistan and throughout Helmand Province.

Another major function of the Landing Support Detachment of the A/DACG is to conduct combat resupply missions in support

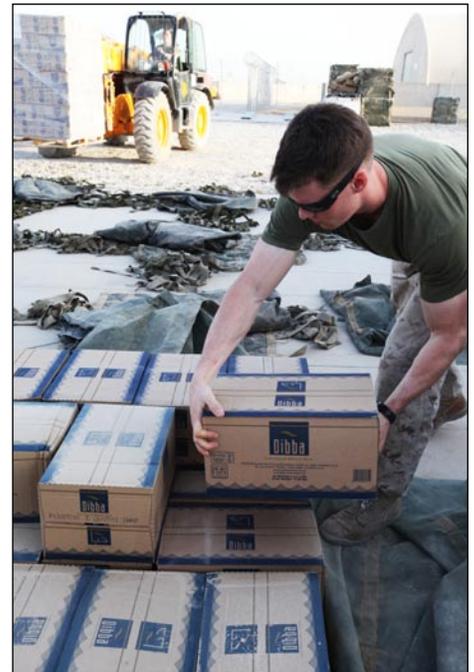
of combat operations for Regional Command Southwest.

The Marines conduct immediate resupply missions through helicopter support teams and air delivery. HST missions involve Marines rigging an external load to a sling attached to the bottom of a cargo helicopter that is then flown to Marines at remote forward operating bases. They can transport items such as Humvees, generators, artillery and other heavy equipment.

Another method of immediate resupply is air delivery, in which an aircraft drops containerized bundles of food, water and ammunition via parachute systems directly to the Marines who need it.

"Getting the gear to the troops at the frontlines by being an immediate resupply method via air versus ground movement is what we do," said Staff Sgt. Crystal Salinas, air delivery chief, Headquarters and

See RESUPPLY, Page 3



Cpl. Micah Buck, a parachute rigger with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), 21, from Fort Collins, Colo., stacks boxes of bottled water in preparation for an air delivery mission at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 8.

CLR-1 Sports Day builds camaraderie



Marines participated in a sumo wrestling tournament, Sept. 3.

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Shannon McMillan
Camp Pendleton Staff

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – As an opportunity to build unit cohesion and shy away from the monotony of unit physical training, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 hosted their first Sports Day event

at Lake O'Neill, Sept. 3.

A day filled with competitive activities included tug-of-war, fun run, rock climbing, soft-ball, a horse-shoe tournament, seven-ton truck pull and much more.

The event gave the Marines and sailors a chance to build camaraderie

See SPORTS DAY, Page 5

Last Goodbye

Fallen EOD tech
laid to rest with honor

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Evan Santy
1st Marine Division

OCEANSIDE, Calif. – Silence filled the room as family, friends and service members from all branches gathered together to pay their last respects to Gunnery Sgt. Floyd E. Holley, an explosive ordnance technician, with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, who lost his life Aug. 29, during a deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

Everyone who entered the Eternal Hills Funeral Home held their heads high in respect and pride but with tears in their eyes for their fallen brother. Marines, who are known for their gruff demeanor, couldn't help but have sadness in their voices as they try to pay their last respects.

"Pretty Boy Floyd, the most handsome man in the EOD," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kelly Colton, 1st EOD company commander with 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "Never a hair out of place, always the perfect tan, no matter what time of year."

Holley was given a variety of different nicknames during his time in the Corps. His brothers called him 'Leonidas,' based on the movie 300, because of his love for physical training and toned physique.

"One thing that was always constant with Floyd Holley was that he always had a grin on his face," said Colton. "No matter what time of day, or what type of mood he was in."



Marine pallbearers with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marines Logistics Group, salute the casket of Gunnery Sgt. Floyd E. Holley, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 7th ESB, 1st MLG, after arriving from Dover Air Force Base, Del., Sept 9. Holley was killed by an improvised explosive device blast while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Aug. 29. Holley was a 36 year-old native of Winter Park, Fla.

Family and friends spoke of Holley as a quiet and laid back kind of person, humble, but always fun to be around and willing to give the shirt off his back for someone who needed it.

Holley was born in Winter Park, Fla., Aug. 16, 1974, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in November of 1997. He attended recruit training at Parris Island, S.C. After graduation, then-Pfc. Holley attended his military occupational specialty school at Camp Lejuene, N.C., for the Basic Electrician's course.

Holley's first duty station was Marine Corps Base Hawaii where he was assigned to 1st Radio Battalion. While stationed in Hawaii, Holley was deployed to Kuwait in support of 1st Intelligence Battalion and with Joint Task Force Full Accounting to Vietnam.

Sgt. Holley reenlisted in May 2001 and was accepted into the explosive ordnance disposal program. He then was stationed at Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 at Marine Corps Air Ground Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. While there, he deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and was involved in operations in

Iraq, Kenya and Djibouti, Africa.

Staff Sgt. Holley then received orders to EOD Base Team at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. While stationed there, Holley went to Vietnam in support of Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command. Holley was then sent to 1st EOD Company, MCB Camp Pendleton. During his tour, he was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from August 2008 to March 2009 where he was promoted to his current rank of gunnery sergeant.

In March 2010, Gunnery Sgt. Holley was deployed again to Afghanistan in support of ISAF. Holley was killed by an improvised explosive device blast while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Helmand Province.

The memorial was followed by a 21-gun salute, and his mother, son and wife were presented a folded American flag and Holley's awards. They were then escorted to their vehicles before leaving to bury their friend, brother, son, husband, dad and Marine.

evan.santy@usmc.mil



(Above) Cpl. Jordan Shemanski, an air delivery specialist with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), 23, from Detroit, tightens a strap on a container delivery system at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 8. (Left) Sgt. Dustin Letourneau, a parachute rigger with 1st Recon Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 26, from Willmar, Minn., ties up a container delivery system of bottled water at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 8. Since arriving in Afghanistan in March, the Marines have air delivered more than 1.2 million pounds of supplies.

Resupply

Continued from Page 1

Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “We help sustain them with chow, water and fuel. We also become a safe haven for those troops that may be in contact [with insurgents] by air dropping ammunition. When it absolutely needs to get there to them, they call us.”

To date, the Marines have conducted more than 200 HST missions, lifting approximately 27 million

pounds of cargo. They have also conducted more than 55 air delivery missions, air-dropping approximately 1.2 million pounds of supplies.

“The Marines have gone above and beyond of what anyone expected when we first got here,” said 1st Lt. Michael Culligan, Landing Support Detachment officer in charge, 25, from Troy, N.Y. “Obviously, with the surge that occurred when we first got to country, it was pretty hectic, but they definitely stepped up to the plate. They work 12-hour shifts every day, and they rarely ever made mistakes, which is impressive when we’ve dealt with almost 5,000 flights.”

The Landing Support Marines keep troops ready and equipped to conduct counterinsurgency operations.

“If you think of the operation of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force as a living organism, we would be the heartbeat,” said Culligan. “We are the ones that are continually pushing people around the [area of operation], helping commanders shape the battlefield and resupplying troops in combat in order to continue pushing offensive operations against the enemy.”

jerrick.griffin@afg.usmc.mil



FOLLOW US ON:
FACEBOOK
DVIDS

COMMANDING GENERAL

BRIG. GEN. CHARLES L. HUDSON

SERGEANT MAJOR

SGT. MAJ. ANTONIO VIZCARRONDO JR.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

2ND LT. JEREMY MCLEAN

2ND LT. REBECCA BURGESS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BROFER

NCOIC

SGT. WHITNEY FRASIER

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

CPL. SHANNON MCMILLAN

LANCE CPL. JERRICK GRIFFIN

LANCE CPL. KHOA PELCZAR

LANCE CPL. KENNETH JASIK

CONTACT US: 760-763-7795, FIRSTMLG@YAHOO.COM

Lance Cpl. Dwason E. Griffith, a combat engineer with Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), nails an A-frame to a wall, Sept. 12. Since their arrival on the FOB, Sept. 2, engineers from 9th ESB have been building structures to improve living conditions and security.



9th ESB Marines build up Kajaki base

Story and Photo by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Afghanistan Staff

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGGE, Afghanistan – Along the front lines of the war in Afghanistan, Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) are working hard to improve the quality of life and bulk up the security of one of the most remote forward operating bases in Helmand Province, FOB Zeebrugge, Sept. 16.

FOB Zeebrugge was transferred from the British to the Marines of India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, 1st Marine Division (Forward), in June. Since then, the Marines have had to deal with austere conditions and the high threat the Taliban impose on the area.

“They are taking a dilapidated, barely functional living space and raising it up to a satisfactory level,” said First Sgt. Vernon E. Derby, battery first sergeant, India Battery, 3/12, RCT-2, 1st MarDiv (FWD).

Engineers have built a new mess hall and bathroom facilities within the



Marines build a SWA hut to be used for a chow hall in Kajaki.

dangers of a front-line base, which receives indirect fire almost daily.

The mission of the combat engineers is not only to improve the living conditions, but also to improve the FOB’s security.

“We’re out here improving the FOB for the front lines,” said Sgt. Kevin N. Houser, 2nd squad leader, from 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD). “These are the guys who need it the most. What we are doing not only makes the FOB more comfortable, but we are also making it safer for the guys who are here.”

The 3/12 Marines in this area are working tirelessly against the Taliban to secure a crucial part of real estate in Afghanistan, the Kajaki Dam, which is responsible for providing electricity to thousands of Afghan homes in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

The improvements the Marines are adding to FOB Zeebrugge are meant to last. The additions will not only increase the morale and security for the Marines of India Battery, but any service member who steps foot onto the base in the future.

“The work they do now won’t just help us, but any follow-on unit will already have this place set up and working properly,” said Gunnery Sgt. David L. Pruden, battery gunnery sergeant, India Battery, 3/12, RCT-2, 1st MarDiv (FWD).

Upon their arrival, Sept. 2, Engineers from 9th ESB quickly got to work and left a lasting impression on the Marines of India Battery.

“They have functioned independently and have exceeded our expectations,” said Derby, 36, Melbourne Fla., on the Marines of 9th ESB.

kenneth.jasik@afg.usmc.mil



(Left) Lance Cpl. Alexander Manrique, small arms repair technician for Combat Logistics Regiment 1, plays a friendly game of horseshoes during the first Sports Day hosted by Combat Logistics Regiment 1 at Lake O'Neill, Sept. 3. (Below) Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1 compete in a tug-of-war competition during the first Sports Day event hosted by Combat Logistics Regiment 1 at Lake O'Neill. The service members also participated in a sumo wrestling tournament, fun run, 7-ton truck pull and softball.



Sports Day

Continued from Page 1

derie amongst the units, said Sgt. Maj. Adrian Gamboa, sergeant major of CLR-1, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

"It's an opportunity for the (service members) to get to know each other on another level," said Master Sgt. Fernanda Hernandez, admin chief, CLR-1.

Service members at the event were given the opportunity to interact with coworkers outside of the normal work environment.

"It's good to get everyone to-

gether," said Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, wrecker operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 1st MLG. "It's a day to build unit cohesion and a chance to learn the dedication of sports amongst the Marines in the shop."

For some, the event afforded an opportunity to walk away knowing the Marines on a more personal level, and for others it was chance to learn more about themselves.

"Nothing better than competing against other Marines," said Her-

nandez. "Especially for a master sergeant, it gives me a chance to see where I stand against the younger Marines."

Either way, service members were able to walk away with fun memories and a stronger camaraderie amongst all the Marines and sailors in their unit.

"I recommend this for everyone," said Gamboa. "This is the first ever, and I definitely am looking forward to the next event."

shannon.mcmillan@usmc.mil



Female engineer helps improve base

Story and Photo by
Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Afghanistan Staff

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGGE, Afghanistan – Female Marines represent just six percent of the entire Marine Corps, and for one combat engineer from 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), that small ratio is a large reality.

Lance Cpl. Kimberly R. Burrows, a 22-year-old from Albany, Ore., is currently at Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, near the Kajaki Dam in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and she's the only female Marine for miles.

Burrows, who joined the Marine Corps in April 2007, is not at all bothered by this fact. She is just glad to have the chance to help with the current mission: improving one of the most remote Marine FOBs in Afghanistan.

"It's nice to do things for people who need it and will appreciate it," said Burrows. "These [India] Battery Marines need the work to be done for both their safety and comfort, and I'm



Lance Cpl. Kimberly R. Burrows moves a two-by-four while working on improvements to Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, Sept. 12.

glad to be helping out with that."

Engineers from 9th ESB arrived at FOB Zeebrugge earlier this month, tasked to enhance security and improve living conditions for the Marines of India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team

2, 1st Marine Division (Forward), who currently own that battlespace.

According to Burrows' leadership, she's a valuable asset to the engineer team conducting the mission.

"She has a good work ethic," said Sgt. Martin D. Allen, a combat engineer from 9th ESB, who currently leads the projects on FOB Zeebrugge. "Burrows is very knowledgeable, and she has great initiative. She keeps busy, and she keeps great accountability of the tools."

It isn't just her ability to stay focused and work hard that shines through; her personality makes an impression as well.

"Burrows gets along well with everyone else," said Allen, 26, from Middle Grove, N.Y. "She fits in well, and she is a great addition to our team."

As for being the only woman around, Burrows looks at it quite simply: "You've got males and females, but we are all Marines, and we have a job to do. It's about giving these Marines a safe place to sleep."

kenneth.jasik@afg.usmc.mil



Photo courtesy of 1st Marine Division Public Affairs

Cpl. Richard Hansen was awarded the Purple Heart medal in a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 10. Hansen, a gunner for Security Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was injured March 5 by an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.



Photo by Cpl. Shannon McMillan

Petty Officer 1st Class James Bowes holds his daughter, Isabella, as service members of 1st MLG prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force, Sept. 11.

Photos from around 1st Marine Logistics Group



Photo by Lance Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

Cpl. Greg A. Gedese, a reconnaissance Marine with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, uses tension bands during a physical therapy session at the newly-opened Concussion Restoration Care Center at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Sept. 9.



Photo by Pfc. Alfred Lopez

Staff Sgt. Mark A. Zambon, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 25, from Marquette, Mich., was awarded the Purple Heart at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 3, for injuries to his left hand suffered when the blasting cap of an improvised explosive device he was prosecuting detonated in his hand at Patrol Base Habib in Musa Qaleh, Afghanistan, May 2.



Photo by Cmdr. Gregory Nezat

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Borut, a surgeon with Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st MLG (FWD), is awarded the Fleet Marine Force pin by 1st MLG Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles Hudson at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, Sept. 7. To earn the FMF Warfare Specialist pin, corpsmen and officers must display knowledge and understanding in everything from unit organization, mission and equipment and must pass a series of written, oral and hands-on examinations. All personnel assigned to Marine operating units are required to achieve FMF qualification within 18 months of checking into their respective work sections.



Chief Reiner Casupanan, with Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), is promoted to his current rank at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Sept. 16.

Photo by Sgt. Shawn Coolman