



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

VOLUME 1, OCT. 1, 2010

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

A New Era

CLB-6 welcomes new commander, Afghan battle streamer awarded

Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
2nd MLG Public Affairs

Major William C. Stophel relinquished command of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, to Lt. Col. Ralph J. Rizzo Jr. during the change of command and battle streamer ceremony here, Sept. 17.

Stophel, a native of Bristol, Tenn., took command of the battalion in July while the unit was actively supporting combat operations in Afghanistan during a seventh month deployment.

In honor of their faithful service, the Afghanistan Campaign Battle Stream was awarded and attached to the battalion colors by Stophel prior to passing the colors to Rizzo.

The unit saw huge successes across the battlespace in Helmand province and as he addressed the battalion one last time, he credited the non-commissioned officer corps for their expert leadership within CLB-6.

"The source of my strength has been one thing – the NCO corps," said Stophel, as he spoke to the platoons formed within the amphitheater. "They kept me straight and I thank them for everything they did in running the battalion. Marines, it was a pleasure."

Rizzo, a native of Charlestown, Mass., joins the battalion from the United States Naval War College, where he recently received a Masters Degree in strategic studies.

Upon receiving the battalion's colors from Stophel, which signified the passing of authority, Rizzo bucked the trend of thanking those in attendance first in favor of addressing his new battalion.



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Lieutenant Col. Ralph J. Rizzo Jr., commanding officer of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, receives the unit colors from the battalion's outgoing commanding officer Maj. William C. Stophel during the change of command and battle colors ceremony here, Sept. 17.

See CLB, Page 4

INSIDE



Machine Gun Course preps 2nd MLG Marines for Combat... Page 2

Also:
Defensive Driving... Page 3
Warrior of the Week... Page 3
Sports... Page 4



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

Pfc. Cristopher J. Haire (left), a hygiene equipment operator with support engineer platoon, Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, shoots the .50 caliber heavy machine gun during the live fire exercise Sept. 16, 2010, aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Machine Gun Course preps 2nd MLG Marines for combat

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

During any kind of mission in Afghanistan, Marines can find themselves subject to an enemy ambush, where split-second decision making and muscle memory can be the determining factor for one's survival and mission accomplishment.

To help 2nd Marine Logistics Group's machine gunners achieve the skill level needed to ensure outstanding performance in combat situations such as ambushes, units sent their Marines to the week-long Machine Gunners Course taught by instructors from the group's Battle Skills Training School.

The latest class to complete the course included Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 8, and the 2nd MLG (fwd) Personal Security Detachment, in preparation for a future deployment to Afghanistan, where a machine gunner's skills are often tested.

"The course teaches the attending Marines about the nomenclature of the different machine guns, such as the M249

[Squad Automatic Weapon], M240G [medium machine gun], the M2 .50 caliber [heavy machine gun] and the Mk-19 grenade launcher," explained Sgt. Jerry S. Bell, a machine gun instructor at BSTS.

"It also shows the Marines how to properly operate them and conduct immediate action in case the machine gun gets jammed or there is a misfire."

During the course the Marines had the opportunity to learn new combat skills and practice old ones. After completing the course the Marines will have a plethora of information to pass on to other Marines within their respective units.

"After putting in so much effort and patience over this week, I expect the Marines to share knowledge so their counterparts can be as effective when they are in a combat deployment," Bell said.

The instructor hoped to make the Marines capable of performing any job that may arise during combat, even if it is not their normal responsibility.

"We have every single Marine from the team here, and the goal is that every one of

them can man any of the machine guns at any point of time," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Ray, the PSD chief. "The role we play in Afghanistan is very important and the more familiarized the Marines are with the different weapons the easier it will be to operate and successfully accomplish our mission."

The main challenge that Marines face during the course is having to master all of the machine guns in a short period of time.

"Eventually they will be achieving proficiency with all the weapon systems and a level of comfort that will help us do our job effectively, in a more proficient manner," Ray explained.

The Marines attending the course have different jobs, but all aim for the same outcome: complete their mission in Afghanistan.

"I am as prepared as any Marine who hasn't gone to Afghanistan could be," said Lance Cpl. Aric G. Sumner, a military policeman with Personal Security Detachment, 2nd MLG. "I'm impatient to go, but

See COURSE, Page 5

Safer Roads Ahead

Defense driving course and safety go hand-in-hand

Lance Cpl. Katherine M. Solano
2nd MLG Public Affairs

Marines and sailors from 2nd Marine Logistics Group had the chance to develop better driving skills through behind-the-wheel experience, classes and a little stunt action this week.

Bobby Ore Motorsports, together with Ron Farris, a tactical safety specialist with Marine Corps Installations East, provided servicemembers with valuable driving tips to encourage safety and defensive driving. The beta test course was a pilot for the Marine Corps, the first of its kind for vehicle drivers.

"Motorcyclists have classes, courses and clubs to promote safety and awareness," said Farris. "What about car drivers?"

"We have to show commands that this course is worth their time and money. If we can effectively promote safety, we can do that," Farris added.

Many of the Marines and sailors who came out were recipients of multiple tickets, both on and off base, so the course focused on safe, smart driving, tailored for medium to high-risk drivers.

The day began with classes covering the basics of proper vehicle care, as well as the responsible application of basic driving techniques.

'Shuffle steering' is one technique that many people often learn when they begin driving, but quickly forget, resorting to hand-over-hand steering and turning, or

some other, less safe method. The instructors quickly try to put the techniques the students learned into action while conducting the course. Shouts of "shuffle steer, shuffle steer!" and "stop looking at the hood, look at the road ahead!" are heard at nearly every station.

Before students can even begin the course, their vehicle must be inspected by their staff noncommissioned officer to ensure it is safe and in proper driving condition. The tires are thoroughly checked, highlighting the importance of tire tread and pressure as discussed in the class.

"Many people get those low-profile tires for cosmetic effect, but they aren't good for anything but racing," said Bobby Ore, owner of Bobby Ore Motorsports.

Once the classes were completed, the students broke off into groups at the different sections around the course in their vehicles. The instructors then either walked or drove through their respective sections to demonstrate what the students needed to do and which techniques they needed to implement. The students have the chance to do a few slow practice runs before they complete the section at the speed suggested by the instructor.

"I really liked doing the test drives at our own speed," said Lance Cpl. Cameo J. Steele, a warehouse clerk with 2nd Sup ply

See DRIVE, Page 5

A student maneuvers their vehicle through a defensive driving course aboard Marine Corps Bogue Air Field, N.C., Sept. 29, 2010.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

WARRIOR
- OF THE -
WEEK



**LANCE CPL.
KATHERINE M. SOLANO**

AGE: 22

JOB: Combat Correspondent

Q: What's your favorite MRE?

A: "Tortellini"

Q: If you were stranded on an island, what is one piece of combat gear you would want with you?

A: "My water purifier because everything else i can probably find on the island or i could live without."

Q: What is your favorite thing about your job in the Marine Corps?

A: "I experience all the other MOS's in the Marine Corps. We're the only ones who can do that."

Intramural Soccer:

Bringing Marines and sailors together

Lance Cpl. Katherine M. Solano
2nd MLG Public Affairs

After a full day of work, many people want nothing more than to relax and unwind. Getting in a good, competitive workout could be low on their list of priorities, even lower for those who have already spent the day testing their body's limits.

Ask the Marines and sailors who play on the 2nd Medical Battalion intramural soccer team why they do it, and you will find that many have the same answer: camaraderie and fun. Even after many of them have done their daily physical training and finished their full day of work, these Marines choose to extend their days with rigorous practices and competitive games.

The players agreed on the appeals of playing on an intramural team.

"It gets us all together, gives us something to do," said Lance Cpl. Daniel Angeles, an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, and player on 2nd Medical Bn, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

Angeles' teammates agree: playing on the team keeps them busy, active and out of trouble.

According to the players, the natural rivalry that develops when physical activity is combined with competition-driven

Marines and sailors is a good-natured one.

"We challenge each other to play the game as best we can," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Luttin, a corpsman with Alpha Co., 2nd Med Bn.

The pre-season practices and the first games start with the focus on fun, but almost always become competitive, added Lance Cpl. Henry Reyes, an armorer with 8th Marines Regiment, and teammate of Luttin and Angeles.

The three players also enjoy the morale boosting benefits of the game.

"I've played on a lot of teams over the years," Reyes said. "We actually always have a good time on this team. We stand up for each other and always try to be there for each other at practices and games."

The esprit de corps is reflected in the team's performance as the season progresses. The first two games were losses for Med. Bn., but the third game of the season, played against 2nd Tank Battalion Sept. 20, spotlighted the hard-work the players have been putting in during practices.

"We won this game because we communicated better, we talked to each other," Reyes cited. "We calmed down and just played the game; we didn't try to look fancy or think too much."

They say the keys to the sport are communication and having fun.

"Communication is vital in any team,

in any sport," Angeles said.

With a 1-2 season, the team has a little work to do if they have hopes of winning the championship.

"We've only played together for six months, so every time we practice or play we get to know each other a little more," Reyes said. "With practice, our weaknesses become strengths."

The team focuses on cardio and mid-field strength, leg work and passing plays to solidify their game plan.

"We constantly get better, and that's what's important," Reyes added.

2nd Med. Bn. is scheduled to play their final game before the championship against 2nd Radio Bn., September 27 at 6 p.m. aboard Marine Corps Air Station New River.

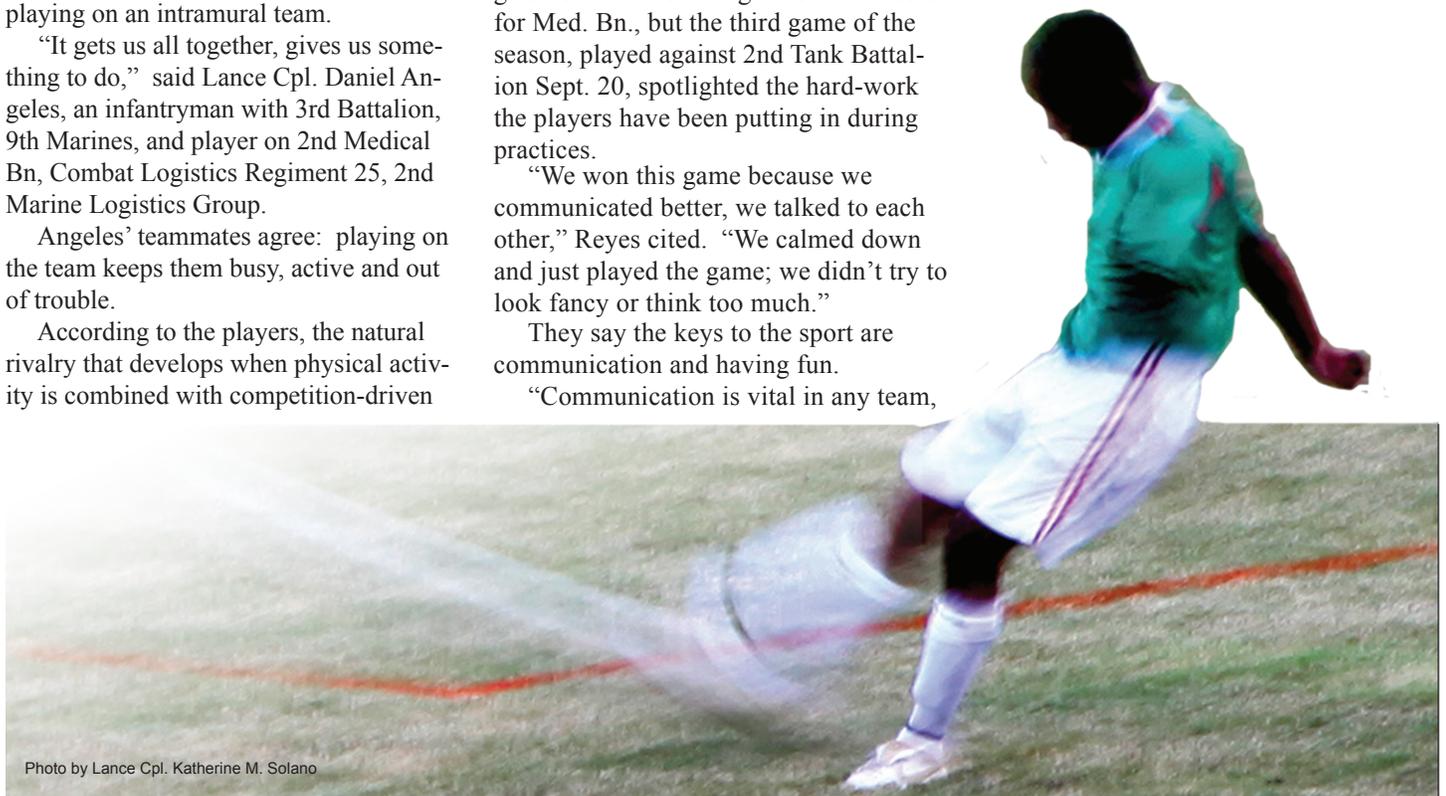


Photo by Lance Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

CLB,
continued from Page 1

They are the reason we are all here, he noted.

“Marines, every day I will give you everything I have to make this thing work and I want to thank you for all the hard work you have already put in,” said Rizzo.

“Bill; thanks brother. I will do my best to carry on the things you have started with this battalion.”

DRIVE,
continued from Page 3

Some other techniques promoted at the course were looking down the road and leading with the eye to make tighter, well executed turns; using mirrors to back up instead of looking over the seat; using focal points farther down the road to make the car go where you want.

“The car is going to go where you are looking,” said Bower. “90 percent of driving is where you’re looking.”

A stunt demonstration by Ore, who has been teaching driving skills for 44 years, ended the course. He completed the stations at high speeds, without stopping, both forward and in reverse. He demonstrated the importance of implementing- Battalion, Combat Logistics

Regiment 25, 2nd MLG. “It made me more confident when it came time to do the course at a faster speed.”

That confidence is key, said Gail Bower, an instructor and retired Miami-Dade law enforcement officer.

“Driving is all about technique and confidence,” Bower said.

Bower cited the mistakes of drivers she has encountered in the six years she has been with Bobby Ore Motorsports. Hand placement on the wheel and looking at the hood instead of the road are most common.

Bower also said that drivers tend to over-correct when their car hydroplanes or skids.

“The car is designed to go in a straight line,” she said. “We were taught to turn into a skid, to control the vehicle instead of letting it do what it is supposed to do.”

Bower says that the best thing to do when losing control of a vehicle is to just let go of the wheel and take your feet of the pedals. A split-second is all it takes for your vehicle to correct its path so you can take control of it again.

A stunt demonstration by Ore, who has been teaching driving skills for 44 years, ended the course. He completed the stations at high speeds, without stopping, both forward and in reverse and demonstrated the importance of implementing the simple techniques the students learned that day.

“What’s the point of driving if you aren’t going to make it home safe?” Ore said.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

Corporal Cassandra B. Hoffman (left), a military policeman with, Personal Security Detachment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (fwd), and Cpl. Corui W. Cook (right), an ammunition technician with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (fwd), go over immediate action drills, Sept. 16, 2010, aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C. The Marines participated in a week-long Machine Gunners Course at the Battle Skills Training School in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

**Machine Gun Course preps
MLG Marines for battlefield
COURSE,**
continued from Page 2

“I understand that being prepared for this deployment is important since our mission is to provide security for VIP’s.”

A Marine with a different job, Pfc. Cristopher J. Haire, a hygiene equipment operator with support engineer platoon, Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd MLG, is still expected to be able to handle machine guns just as well as a Marine in a more combat oriented MOS.

“This course taught me a lot about how to operate these weapons, especially the .50 caliber and the Mk 19,” explained Haire. “I personally feel like this course gave me tools necessary for me to be more useful during deployment.”

“Whether I have to do my job or jump on a machine gun and shoot back at the enemy, I feel comfortable that I can do either one well,” he added.

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM T. STABLES

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
HMCM KELLY A. MCNULTY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
2ND LT. JOSHUA SMITH

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
SGT. JEREMY ROSS
SGT. JUSTIN J. SHEMANSKI
CPL. RACHAEL MOORE
CPL. MIKAELA FOSTER
CPL. BOBBIE CURTIS
CPL. MELISSA LATTY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
STAFF SGT. THERESA SENG

LANCE CPL. KATHERINE M. SOLANO
LANCE CPL. BRUNO J. BEGO
PFC. FRANKLIN MERCADO



FOLLOW US ON **facebook**