



# THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

JANUARY 21, 2011

## A Commanding Presence II MEF welcomes new CG



Photo by Cpl. James W. Clark

Lieutenant Gen. John M. Paxton (left), II Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik (right), commander of United States Marine Corps Forces Command, during an assumption of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 18, 2010. More than 300 friends, family and military personnel, including the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, attended the event which marked Paxton's new position as II MEF's commanding general. Dozens of Marines and sailors from the 2nd Marine Logistics Group supported the event as ceremonial personnel.



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# Courage and Commitment

## CLB-2 Marines awarded for battlefield actions, injuries

**Cpl. Shannon McMillan**  
*1st MLG (FWD) Public Affairs*

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Three Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 2 were recognized for their dedication and sacrifice during an award ceremony here Jan. 4.

Staff Sgt. Derek Cheek was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with combat distinguishing device for actions that occurred Aug. 13 and 14, 2010.

Lance Cpl. Bryan Brown and Lance Cpl. Walter Achey III were each awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered during separate combat operations in September 2010.

Cheek, a native of Palm Bay, Fla., was awarded the medal for actions that occurred during a combat logistics patrol. During the patrol, the vehicle in front of his was hit by an improvised explosive device. Cheek immediately checked on the Marines and called for them to be medically evacuated from the area. The following day, his vehicle was hit by an IED and instead of thinking about himself, he again ensured the safety of his Marines.



Photo by Cpl. Shannon McMillan

From left to right, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward's) Sgt. Maj. Antonio Vizcarrondo Jr., Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, pose with with Combat Logistic Battalion 2's Lance Cpl. Bryan Brown, Staff Sgt. Derek Cheek, Lance Cpl. Walter Achey, Lt. Col. Brian N. Wolford and Sgt. Maj. Tracy Lynch.

"I only did what is expected from every Marine," said Cheek, platoon sergeant, Bravo Company, CLB-2, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). Cheek is a Reservist who volunteered for this deployment.

Brown, a native of New Bern, N.C., was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered during a combat logistics patrol, Sept. 5. The patrol was heading toward Sangin, Afghanistan, when an IED went off and hit Brown's vehicle. He suffered a grade-three concussion from the explosion.

"I received an award that previous Marines have received," said Brown, heavy equipment operator, Charlie Company. "It's an honor and emotional moment."

Achey, a native of Allentown, Pa, was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered during a combat logistics patrol, Sept. 9. As the patrol was heading up to Sangin during a resupply mission, the vehicle Achey was in was hit by an IED. He suffered a grade-three concussion and received shrapnel wounds to his left arm

during the explosion.

After the incident, Achey looked at the world differently.

"[I learned] life is short and to live it everyday to its fullest," said Achey, combat engineer, Charlie Company.

All three Marines continue to conduct operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brown and Achey have since fully recovered from their injuries and continue to serve alongside their fellow Marines on missions in Helmand province

### BLOTTER



28 Dec. 2010 - A private first class with Combat Logistics Regiment 27 was observed with a beard and hair not within military regulation. A permissive search was conducted which resulted in the discovery of six containers of spice and two glass smoking pipes. The Marine was apprehended and released to a unit representative.

28 Dec. 2010 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion was driving when another vehicle which failed to maintain proper distance struck him. The unknown driver then fled the scene.

# Behind the Lens

## ComCam chief preps shop for deployment

**Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado,**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Field exercises, ceremonies and family events - whatever the case may have been, it is almost a guarantee that most Marines have noticed a photographer in their midst.

Within the 2nd Marine Logistics Group, those behind the cameras are often the Marines of the unit's own combat camera section.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Kaus, the combat camera chief, is in charge of the section and leads his Marines in their mission to document items of tactical and historical significance at home and abroad.

Kaus has spent the last 11 years capturing and creating images of Marines in their element, first as a graphic designer and as a combat videographer.

Regardless of the mid-career swap in occupational specialties, Kaus said he still

has the best job in the Marine Corps.

"We can do and see everything in the military," explained Kaus.

With one deployment to Afghanistan already under his belt, Kaus and his team are currently preparing to support 2nd MLG (FWD's) upcoming tour in support of International Security Assistance Forces.

The comcam team will provide documentation as the unit provides combat service support throughout Helmand province.

Every photo contains a memory and as Kaus readies for another tour on the battlefield, many more will be captured, including some more of his own.

However, don't ask him to pick a favorite one from past experiences.

"I don't have any one memory that stands out as a favorite," he said. "It's all memorable. Good or bad, it makes you who you are today."



Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

**Staff Sgt. Jeff Kaus, the combat camera chief for 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), looks over a photo taken by his Marines aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 19. Kaus will be deploying to Afghanistan along with his Marines in support of 2nd MLG (Fwd).**

## WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



**STAFF SGT. JEFF KAUS**

**JOB:** Combat Camera chief,  
2nd MLG ComCam

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

**A:** "We're like a snap shot of the Marine Corps; we do everything!"

**Q:** What is your favorite MRE?

**A:** "The now extinct tuna casserole."

**Q:** If you were stranded on a desert island with one piece of combat gear, what would it be and why?

**A:** "Bayonet with sharpener; you can make a shelter, kill food, etc..."

**Q:** What sports team do you root for?

**A:** "Denver Donkeys."

# Air, Land, Sea: Landing support specialists train to deliver support across the globe



Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

Landing support specialists with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) try to hook a large boulder to a MV-22 Osprey during an exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 7, 2011. The boulder was supposed to simulate cargo that would be moved to a different location during an external resupply mission.

## **Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado** *2nd MLG Public Affairs*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Although it's one of the most dangerous jobs in the Marine Corps, due to the fact that the risk of injury is among the highest in the military, landing support specialists put their lives on the line to get their fellow Marines' and sailors' supplies they need, no matter where they may be.

The inherent danger in these Marine's daily duties is obvious at training events such as the exercise landing support specialist with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (FWD) took part in aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 7.

As the winds from a MV-22 Osprey kicked up dust, rocks and sticks, a six-man team rigged imitation cargo and waited for its return to the drop zone so they could unload, which simulated the import and export of external lifts.

This was one of the several times a month landing support specialist with the MLG practice this exercise in preparation to support combat operations in Afghanistan.

With the deployment approaching fast, there's no such thing as too much practice, said Cpl. Joseph Hernandez, a landing support specialist with 2nd MLG (FWD).

"This isn't something we don't (normally) practice, we do this quite often," said Hernandez. "But it's one of those things, the more you come out here and do it, the better you are, and it's good for the younger Marines."

Practice is important when there are new Marines and reservists who may not be as seasoned as an active duty Marine, said Hernandez.

"We all know they are capable of doing the job," he said. "But we all get rusty, everyone can use a refresher. Our job is too important to mess up."

Landing support specialists play a large part in moving supplies and Marines to different places across the world and if not done correctly it could have a negative effect on everyone involved, added Hernandez, such as Marines not receiving food, ammo or medical supplies on time.

"We need to be on point whether we are deployed or here," he said.

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