



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

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GETTING A **FEEL** FOR THE THE FIGHT

Capt. Michael Gasperini, the company commander of Maintenance Company, 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), explains what his Marines are doing at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, to Dr. Ashton B. Carter, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, June 22, 2011. During the visit, Carter and the other distinguished visitors: Lt. Gen. Robert B. Neller, the Director for Operations for the Joint Staff; Alan Estevez, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics & Materiel Readiness; Richard T. Ginman, the Deputy Director for Contingency Contracting and Acquisition Policy; and Thomas Dee, Director of the Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell, talked to Marines and Sailors from 2nd Maint. Bn. and Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd MLG (Fwd.) aboard FOB Edinburgh and Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, to find out how they can better support troops in Afghanistan. See *the complete story* on Page 5.

INSIDE



Competitive spirit alive at CLR-27 Field Meet ... Page 4

Also:
Blotter Page 2
Warrior of the Week Page 3
Motorcycle Safety Page 6

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Theresa E. Seng

More than 150 service members and civilians begin a 5 km run held at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 17, 2011. The run was held to celebrate the 113th birthday of the hospital corps. In addition to the run, there was a ceremony and cake for all personnel aboard Camp Leatherneck.

Happy Birthday

Service members, civilians celebrate 113th birthday of hospital corps

Staff Sgt. Theresa E. Seng
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – For 113 years Navy corpsmen have served faithfully to take care of sailors and Marines in combat and in garrison.

More than 150 service members and civilians celebrated the birthday with a 5 km run at 6 a.m. and then in the afternoon with a ceremony at the FOB's chapel and cake June 17, 2011, at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Tomlinson, from Keene, Texas, the chaplain for 2nd MLG (FWD), gave the invocation during a cake cutting ceremony in commemoration of the 113th birthday of the hospital corps. More than 150 service members and civilians celebrated the birthday with a 5 km run at 6 a.m. and then in the afternoon with a ceremony and cake (far right).



Photos by Staff Sgt. Theresa E. Seng



BLOTTER



25 June 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 24 reported an unknown person(s) shattered the back window of his vehicle. The investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of the damaged personal property is \$659.

26 June 2011 - A Marine with 2nd Supply Battalion was observed weaving in his lane and a traffic stop revealed the individual had the odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from his breath and person. The Marine was apprehended, searched and submitted a sample of his breath from chemical analysis, which resulted in a reading of .13% BAC. The Marine was released to a unit representative.

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



LANCE CORPORAL
MATTHEW J. MESSER

JOB: Motor Transportation

HOMETOWN: Brownstown,
Mich.

Q: Favorite MRE?

A: "Pork Rib."

Q: If you were stranded on a deserted island with one piece of gear you would want to have?

A: "E-tool." You can use it as a weapon, dig a hole; pretty much anything."

Q: Favorite sports team?

A: "Detroit Tigers."

Q: Do you have a hero?

A: "My wife. she takes care of our daughter by herself and handles pretty much everything by herself while I'm here. It's pretty impressive."

'Thankful to be alive'

Marine blown out of vehicle from IED, survives with only bruises

Lance Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan

— According to an article released by the Washington Post, improvised explosive devices were responsible for 268 U.S. troops killed and 3,360 other injured during combat operations in Afghanistan in 2010.

Comprised of primarily fertilizer, metal and some electronic parts, and usually invisible to the naked eye, these deadly traps are capable of seriously damaging even the largest armored vehicles.

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Messer, from Brownstown, Mich., a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), was serving as a gunner during a combat logistics patrol May 23 when his truck hit an improvised explosive device.

"We were on a convoy coming back from [Forward Operating Base Edinburgh] when the vehicle in front of us, a [Logistical Vehicle System Replacement] towing another LVSR, hit an IED," Messer said.

Messer's truck was directly behind the

LVSR when everything happened.

"We sat there and watched as the wrecker team came around and took care of the situation," he explained. "Then we were directed to pull off to the left of that vehicle.

"I don't think we even moved two feet when we hit the IED," Messer explained. "At that time, I didn't really hear anything, all I saw was a bunch of dust."

The force of the explosion blew the gun turret, with Messer in it, out of the top of the vehicle, and landed a few feet to the right of his truck.

"When I saw what was happening, I grabbed the gun and closed my eyes ... I thought the truck was rolling over," he said. "Right then I realized I was flying in the air, which kind of felt like forever."

"I couldn't see anything ... so I just screamed for help," he added. "About eight or nine [fellow troops] came around to help."

Among the Marines and Sailors rushing to Messer's aide was Sgt. Joshua R. Clark, from Lafayette, Ind., the assistant convoy commander for the mission.

See SURVIVOR, Page 6



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Messer, a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), poses for a picture next to the battalion sign, June 26, 2011, aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

Photo by
Lance Cpl. Bruno J. Bego



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Cpl. Joshua McDermott, a landing support specialist with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, digs deep in search of every last ounce of strength in the tug-of-war event during a field meet hosted by the regiment at the Goettge Memorial Field House aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 23. Six companies and two battalions participated in the event.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard L. McCumber

Marines and Sailors from Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 'build a bridge' during the the unit's field meet at the Goettge Memorial Field House aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 23. The meet featured five events, including staples like the tug-of-war and kettle bell throw.

Digging Deep

Competitive spirit alive at CLR-27 field meet

Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – As war cries pierced the thick, muggy Carolina air, six companies and two battalions of warriors were pitted against each other during Combat Logistic Regiment 27's field meet at the Goettge Memorial Field House aboard Camp Lejeune, June 23.

A smoky haze, courtesy of recent wild fires in the area, served as a dynamic backdrop during the competition, but it was the Marines and Sailors who brought the action to the forefront. No one came to lose and the competitive spirit was omnipresent.

The meet featured five events, including staples like the tug-of-war and kettle bell throw, but one event in particular really captured the essence of the regimental commander, Col. Gary F. Keim.

“Field meets really build that camaraderie and team work capability.”

Sgt. Terrell L. Greene,
food service specialist, Food Service Company



No stranger to high intensity workouts and tactical training, Keim implemented the “2-4-6 Relay” into the mix.

To complete the event, participants were required to run 200, 400 and 600 meters in sequence around the track, three times, noted Keim.

“It’s a real soul crusher,” he said with a grin.

Later in the morning, Sgt. Terrell L. Greene, a food service specialist with Food Service Company, tested his resolve in the kettle bell throw competition. New to the unit as of last February, Greene noted that in his opinion, events like field meets have a slight benefit over other unit functions such as family days or holiday-themed parties.

“Field meets really build that camaraderie and team work capability,” explained Greene. “When you deploy, you really know the Marine to your left and right, and not just those within your section.”

Building these types of close bonds is exactly what Keim and his staff had intended to do by hosting such an event. Nothing builds these types of bonds better than good competition and even better company.

“It gives the Marines and Sailors the chance to meet other Marines and Sailors; all while letting off some steam,” said Keim.



(Top Left) Col. Gary F. Keim, the commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, addresses his Marines and Sailors following the unit’s field meet at the Goettge Memorial Field House aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 23. Keim thanked his troops for their spirited participation and solicited them for ideas that may be taken into consideration when planning future unit events. (Left) Sgt. Terrell L. Greene, a food service specialist with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, participate in a tricycle race during the regiment’s field meet at the Goettge Memorial Field House aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 23. (Bottom) Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, participate in a tricycle race during the unit’s field meet June 23. Six companies and two battalions participated in the meet, which included five different events.



Photos by
Staff Sgt. Richard L. McCumber

2nd MLG to host Motorcycle Safety Stand Down

2nd Lt. James F. Stenger
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – A motorcycle safety stand down hosted by the 2nd Marine Logistics Group is scheduled for 1 p.m. June 30, 2011 at the Russell Center here.

More riders typically take to the roads as the summer season and its warm weather arrive aboard Camp Lejeune. With this, the likelihood of an accident increases.

The intent of the stand down is

for the Marines in attendance to walk away knowing how to make better decisions when it comes to riding.

Guest speakers will include: Master Sgt. Andrew B. Allen, the base traffic court magistrate; North Carolina State Trooper and Motorcycle Officer Sgt. Mark Brown.

Anyone in the 2nd MLG who owns a motorcycle, has a motorcycle endorsement, or who is considering owning a motorcycle in the future is required to attend.

DoD officials visit Marines, focus on warrior support

Sgt. Rachael Moore
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE EDINBURGH, Afghanistan –

Dr. Ashton B. Carter, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and other distinguished visitors met with Marines from 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, June 22, 2011, to ensure they have the means necessary to uphold their responsibilities.

“We’re here to make sure we have a feel for what you are doing so we can better support you as you support the fighters,” Carter explained to some Marines from 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd MLG (Fwd.).

During the visit, Carter and the other distinguished visitors, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Neller, the Director of Operations for the Joint Staff; Alan Estevez, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics & Materiel Readiness; Richard T. Ginman, the Deputy Director for Contingency Contracting and Acquisition Policy; and Thomas Dee, Director of the Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell, talked to Marines and Sailors from 2nd Maint. Bn. and Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd MLG (Fwd.).

SURVIVOR, *continued from Page 3*

“I saw the turret fly off and flip in the air,” Clark said. “I was close enough to see everything happen, but it took me about 10 seconds to register just from the shock of the explosion.”

Clark has been on five deployments, three of them in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, one for Operation Enduring Freedom and his current deployment in support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

“I have never seen anything like that before,” Clark explained. “I have seen many IEDs on other deployments, but being at the site assisting ... this was my first time.”

Marines ran to the turret expecting the worse.

“When we arrived to where Messer was, we realized his leg was under the turret,” Clark explained. “It wasn’t as bad as we initially thought it would be.”

Messer’s leg was trapped, but not broken. The group worked together to lift the turret and free his leg.

“As soon as we got him out of there, we immediately checked for any other injuries,” Clark said. “He only had some bruises on his legs and arms. I don’t know how somebody can come out of that with no injuries.”

In the meantime, other Marines in the convoy were attempting to establish a landing zone to evacuate wounded Marines via helicopter.

“We couldn’t clear the helicopters to set down in that area because it was very dangerous,” Clark said. “So they sent a medic down on a rope. They hoisted them to the bird and took them to the medical facility in Camp Bastion.”

“I feel really thankful to be alive,” said Messer. “I consider myself lucky to be here today, talking and walking after what happened.”

Messer is currently recovering from his wounds, and his fellow Marines are eagerly awaiting his return.

“I really think he got lucky, with the weight of the turret, flying through the air like that” Clark concluded. “We want him to hurry up and recover so he can return to the platoon ... we only have a few missions left.”

“I’m getting impatient,” Messer, added. “I hate watching them leave on missions without me.”

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