



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

AUGUST 12, 2011

Elixer of Life



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

Lance Cpl. Michael D. Wilson, from Mercer, Pa., a water support technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) refills a water container with drinking water July 28, 2011, aboard Forward Operating Base Musa Qala, Helmand province, Afghanistan. Water support technicians are using two Tactical Water Purification Systems to supply purified water and therefore reduce the need of convoy and helicopter resupply missions. Since the TWPSs arrived to the base, the Marines have pumped, purified and delivered over 100,000 gallons of water for the Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division (Fwd.) as well as other units in the area.

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Ties that bind: Families in the fight

Sgt. Rachael Moore

2nd MLG FWD Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – During deployments, service members usually keep in touch with their families through email or phone calls, but a few Marines do not have to reach very far for the support a family member offers.

1st Lt. Sarah Bergstrom, the landing support officer in charge



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Rachel Abernathy (left), the adjutant for 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), stands next to her sister 1st Lt. Sarah Bergstrom (right), the landing support officer in charge with 2nd MLG (Fwd.), after Bergstrom's promotion ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 22, 2011. The sisters are deployed to Afghanistan together and are able to share special moments like this as well as help each other get through rough patches of the deployment.

with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and Lance Cpl. Frank Krist, a tank mechanic with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd MLG (Fwd.), both have siblings deployed to Camp Leatherneck with them.

Bergstrom's sister, 1st Lt. Rachel Abernathy, is currently serving as the adjutant for 2nd Maintenance Battalion here at Camp Leatherneck.

"We meet up at least once a week for chow," said Bergstrom. "We eat and catch up on things going on at home."

In addition to their weekly outings, the sisters lean on each other when times get rough.

"There are so many things out here that you can't control, and at times it's very frustrating," explained Bergstrom. "I can always take comfort in knowing that my sister will listen to me, and she will give me honest feedback.

"Since school, Rachel and I have continuously given each other support, and it's nice to have that safety net out here," added Bergstrom.

While the sisterly bond helps Bergstrom and Abernathy get through the days, Frank and Paul Krist have their brotherly bond to carry them through their deployment.

"It's nice having him out here, but I wouldn't say it's bringing us closer," explained Frank. "We can't get any closer, we're brothers."

The Krist brothers joined the Marine Corps together, graduated from the same military occupational specialty school, and now are both deployed to Afghanistan.

"We don't get to see each other a lot, but when we do it's like we were never separated," said Frank.

The brothers enjoy meeting up for dinner or meeting at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center to hang out.

"Our schedules are really different so meeting up can be difficult," explained Frank. "Sometimes I'll be walking around base and bump into him. We always find time to say 'what's up' and talk for a minute or two."

While the busy schedules of both sets of siblings are extremely demanding, they both agree they'd rather have their sibling out here, than not.

"It doesn't really change much for me as far as my job, but it's cool knowing my brother is right across the base if I ever needed anything," Frank added.

"It means a lot to share the experience of being deployed with a family member," concluded Bergstrom.

BLOTTER



09 August 2011 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion was pulled over for making an improper turn in a POV and was subsequently found to have a blood alcohol content of .10 percent.

09 Aug 2011 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion was pulled over for failing to utilize lights during hours of darkness in a POV and was subsequently found to have a blood alcohol content of .12 percent.

09 August 2011 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion made an improper turn and struck a civilian operating a vehicle. The civilian's vehicle was towed while the Marine's was released into the owner's possession.

Landing support

Liaison critical to in-country travel, resupply

Sgt. Rachael Moore

2nd MLG FWD Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Due to the distance between forward operating bases and combat outposts, and the rugged terrain of Afghanistan, transporting personnel and some supplies via helicopters is quicker and has become more common.

Landing support Marines are scattered throughout Afghanistan to coordinate flights to and from FOBs.

Lance Cpl. Ivey J. Flores, Jr., a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), fills that coordination role for Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan.

“I’m responsible for movement of all personnel and cargo in and out of FOB [Edinburgh],” explained Flores, an Odessa, Texas, native. “We have flights coming in all hours of the day, and there’s always one of us out there directing them.”

When the aircraft is landing, some passengers are in awe by the size of the aircraft and others are ducking away

from the large amount of dust that fills the air.

The landing support Marines don’t have that luxury. When they see the aircraft coming in, they grab their helmets and begin the offload process.

“We’re trained to be out on the flightline,” said Flores. “We know what to do, and when to do it.”

When a flight is inbound, the landing support Marines ensure all passengers are manifested and ready to go. If the incoming aircraft has cargo, the Marines ensure the forklift is readily available to get the gear off.

“We deal with all types of gear,” said Flores. “Whether it’s mail for the troops, water, food, or even sometimes repair parts for vehicles, we’re responsible for getting the gear off.

“The [helicopters] have a strict timeline,” continued Flores. “We try to get the gear off as quick as possible, and then we move the troops to and from the helicopter.”

Keeping the tight schedule ensures the quick and timely movement of troops and gear, which has made movement by helicopter more common.

“My job plays a big role in the mission here in Afghanistan,” concluded Flores. “Without landing support Marines, there’d be no coordination, and no aircraft could deliver mission essential gear or drop off the troops.”



Photo by Sgt. Rachael Moore

Lance Cpl. Ivey J. Flores, Jr., a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), escorts passengers off of the flightline June 22, 2011, at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan. Flores acts as a liaison for passengers departing and arriving at the FOB as well as offloading and loading cargo onto the aircraft.

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



LANCE CORPORAL
IVEY J. FLORES, JR.

JOB: Landing Support Specialist

HOMETOWN: Odessa, Texas

Q: What’s your favorite thing about this job?

A: “I love everything about my job, but especially working with flights.”

Q: Favorite Sports Team?

A: “South Carolina Gamecocks”

Q: If you could do any other job, what would you be?

A: “Professional Wine Taster, if that is even a job”

Q: Favorite MRE?

A: “Chili with Beans”



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

Cpl. Joseph J. Laflamme, from York, Maine, a water support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) conducts repairs on a Tactical Water Purification System July 28, 2011, aboard Forward Operating Base Musa Qala, Helmand province, Afghanistan. Since the TWPSs arrived to the base, the Marines have pumped, purified and delivered over 100,000 gallons of water for Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division (Fwd.) as well as other units operating in the area.

Marines increase water production, distribution in Musa Qala District

Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

2nd MLG FWD Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MUSA QALA, Afghanistan – Water purification systems continue to take the place of bottled water, increasing the expeditionary capability of troops in Afghanistan.

Water support technicians with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) at Forward Operating Base Musa Qala, are using two Tactical Water Purification Systems to supply purified water and therefore reduce the need of convoy and helicopter resupply missions.

“We just received the TWPS a little over a month ago,” ex-

plained Cpl. Joseph J. Laflamme, from York, Maine, a water support specialist with CLB-8. “With each one of the systems we are able to purify 1,200 to 1,500 gallons per hour.”

Since the TWPSs arrived to the base, the Marines have pumped, purified and delivered over 100,000 gallons of water for Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division (Fwd.) as well as other units in the area.

“The water goes to the all the water [containers], the laundry section and showers on this base and other bases throughout the [area of operation],” Laflamme said. “The goal is to make this base the main water distribution point for the area.

“With the TWPS we can produce more water, faster,” Laflamme concluded. “We are not going to have to wait.”

Comm. key to EOD connection

Sgt. Rachael Moore

2nd MLG FWD Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MARJAH, Afghanistan – Explosive ordnance disposal teams play a vital role in International Security Assistance Force operations due to the number of improvised explosive devices the insurgency planted across Afghanistan.

For them to properly do their job they have to communicate with other units and combat operation centers about the detonation of the IEDs and, in a worse-case scenario, medical evacuation.

“Radios are how we communicate within the convoy,” explained Sgt. Christopher T. Wehunt, a multi-channel equipment operator with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “Without working communication devices, you’re left without situational awareness of what’s going on outside your vehicle.”

Communication specialists from the 2nd MLG (Fwd.) are responsible for keeping the EOD teams’ radios and other communication devices up and running. To keep up with the demand they travel around Helmand province to upgrade and perform operation checks on the equipment.

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

Lance Cpl. Charles Shoeneft (foreground) and Cpl. Andrew Black (background), both ground radio intermediate repairers with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), install upgrades on a radio at Forward Operating Base Marjah, Afghanistan, July 28, 2011. Their three-man team that travels around Helmand province maintaining radios and other communication devices.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) pile up ammunition August 4, 2011, at Sink East Range near Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

EOD demolishes outdated inventory, keeps ammunition fresh

Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

2nd MLG FWD Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – To properly dispose of nearly 25,000 pounds of ammunition, Marines with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) conducted four controlled detonations August 4 at Sink East Range near Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

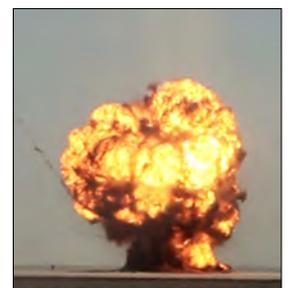
“Some units here at Camp Leatherneck had a bunch of damaged ammunition that exceeded its shelf life, and they needed to get rid of it,” explained Staff Sgt. Daniel Pare, from Fall River, Mass., an EOD team leader with 2nd MLG (Fwd.). “So they called us and asked if we could do some controlled detonations to destroy it.”

Some of the material destroyed included 9 mm rounds, 50 caliber rounds, High Explosive Dual Purpose grenades, 81 mm Illumination and regular mortar rounds, Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching

System rounds, and even a few High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System rounds.

“They are being destroyed because technically we can’t issue them anymore,” Pare said. “After the ammunition reaches its expiration date, it becomes unreliable, presenting issues with the fuse’s proper function and safeties involved.

“I am sure as we get closer and closer to the date we leave Afghanistan, there are going to be more and more of these going on,” Pare said. “But right now we are just getting rid of all the unserviceable ammo so we can bring new supplies in without going above the [maximum amount allowed].”



Casualty training for ANA

Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego
2nd MLG FWD Public Affairs

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – Afghan National Army soldiers with 215th Corps Logistics Battalion continue to develop into a more independent fighting force by learning different field expedient medical treatments and casualty evacuation.

Marines and Sailors with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) Embedded Partnering Team worked hand-in-hand with ANA soldiers during a mass-casualty training exercise August 2, 2011, aboard Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan.

“This is the first time we trained these soldiers on mass-casualty treatment and evacuation,” explained Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick L. McElhinney, from Jacksonville, N.C., a hospital corpsman with the EPT. “The most significant thing learned during the training is their overall ability to conduct these types of evacuations during a stressful situation.

“I think they are going to be able to judge and see what they need to improve so they can be ready during a real-life event,” he continued.

The injuries experienced during the exercise were caused by a simulated explosion. Some of the injuries the soldiers saw during the training ranged from concussions to multiple fractures and skin lacerations caused by fragmentation.

“With this type of training they are going to know how to react if they ever encounter a similar situation,” McElhinney added. “Having the skill to treat more than one patient at a time while having loud noises going on will help them be ready to save their fellow soldiers’ lives.”



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bruno Bego

Soldiers with the 215th Corps Logistics Battalion, Afghan National Army prepare to load simulated casualties into ambulances during a mass-casualty training exercise after triaging the severity of their wounds and conducting initial first aid August 2, 2011, aboard Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan. Marines and sailors with the Embedded Partnering Team, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) will continue to provide medical training to troops with the 215th CLB to enable them to sustain themselves and fellow Afghans during real-world operations while supporting Afghan infantry soldiers operating in southwestern Afghanistan.

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“We ensure the EOD teams are able to continue operations by going to them,” said Wehunt. “If the teams had to bring their trucks to a major hub, it would reduce their mission capabilities and pose more of a threat for the troops working in the area left behind.”

The three-man communication team travels to the different forward operating bases to perform maintenance checks on the devices.

“If communication systems aren’t maintained, then communication goes down,” said Cpl. Andrew S. Black, a ground radio intermediate repairer with 2nd MLG (Fwd.). “Electronics are tricky. The smallest thing can hinder their performance.”

After ensuring the equipment works properly, the team begins installing upgrades.

“We upgraded the vehicle adapter units and radios,” explained Black, a Mount Pleasant, Mich., native. “The VAU upgrade increased its power output, and the software for the radios allows new options to be run. It also took care of any bugs in the previous software.”

The software upgrades increase efficiency once installed.

“The radios still worked without the upgrades, but they had issues talking to other types of radios,” explained Wehunt. “This latest upgrade is supposed to fix that problem.

“Every piece of gear issued has small problems that can be upgraded to make it better or to fix small problems that couldn’t be handled due to the need of that specific piece of gear,” added Wehunt.

The communication Marines will continue to travel to forward operating bases throughout Helmand province to ensure Marines and Sailors have the equipment required to accomplish the mission.

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