



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

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First-Hand Experience



Massachusetts Senator visits CLB-6 troops in Afghanistan

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Massachusetts Senator Scott P. Brown, from Wakefield, Mass., and Brig. Gen Ross E. Ridge, the Task Force 2010 commander, visited the Marines and Sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) August 30, 2011.

During the visit, Marines were able to demonstrate partnership across the combined/joined operations area in combating corruption and preventing pilferage. Brown's visit also allowed senior leaders an opportunity to present issues and concerns to him that may be taken to Congress.

Brown, a 31-year Massachusetts Army National Guardsman, had a chance to see some of the equipment the CLB-6 troops are using to operate throughout Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Force operations.



Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
Cpl. Ryan M. Kozup (left), from Pittsburgh, a field radio operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), briefs Massachusetts Senator Scott P. Brown (right) on some of the communications equipment Marines and Sailors of the battalion are using, during his visit August 30, 2011, aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Brown, also a Massachusetts Army National Guardsman, toured the CLB-6 compound and spoke with senior leaders of the battalion.

INSIDE



CCRS Marines save \$105K in equipment repairs ... Page 2

Also:

- Blotter Page 2
- Warrior of the Week Page 3
- CLB-6 Feature Page 5



Cpl. Zachary Moats, a radio repairman with Communications Electronic Maintenance platoon, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), repairs a circuit card with the assistance of a microscope aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Aug. 31. Moats, along with one other Marine, make up the platoon's Circuit Card Repair section. As an alternative to buying new gear in some cases, the Marines repair electronic items down to the component level for fractions of the cost.

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

CCRS Marines break \$100K in equipment repair savings

Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Saving money is a priority for everyone in current economic times and the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) is following suit.

Tucked away within the unit's massive Intermediate Maintenance Activity lot aboard Camp Leatherneck is the Circuit Card Repair section, where two Marines' skills of-

ten mean the difference between spending cents versus dollars.

"We take in end items like battery packs and chargers and circuit cards from laptop computers and radios and fix them down to the component level," said Cpl. Zachary Moats, a radio repairman with Communications Electronic Maintenance platoon, 2nd MLG (FWD).

Swapping out a bad transistor or capacitor for a good one can mean the difference between a new \$4,000 radio and a couple

cents in parts, explained Moats and his colleague, Cpl. Christopher Huber, a computer repair technician.

During the last six months, the section has saved quite a significant amount of money performing repairs like this - \$105,000 to be exact, while only spending approximately \$800 on repair parts.

"Their whole job is to save the Marine Corps money and they do an outstanding job at what they do," said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Ascone, maintenance chief, Communications Electronic Maintenance platoon.

It's a job both Marines share a genuine sense of passion for and they intend to continue increasing unit savings one day at a time.

"There's a real sense of accomplishment in everything we do here," said Moats.

BLOTTER



3 September 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 6 reported an unknown person(s) stole a TV from the S-4 shop. An investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of the stolen government property is \$1,400.

5 September 2011 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion reported she was involved in a verbal altercation with another Marine, which escalated when he broke down a door in the residence. The offending Marine fled from military police. Contact was made requesting him to report to PMO. Upon arrival, he was apprehended, processed and released to his unit OOD.

Side by Side

Chaplain's spiritual assistance helps Marines stay in the fight

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan

– Marines and Sailors have more than two centuries of history fighting together, but over the years, war evolved and so did the way the Marine Corps operates. One thing has remained the same, however – Marines still depend on some of the services the Navy offers – especially religious services.

Working side by side with the Marines and Sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) aboard Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Navy Lt. Robert M. Hess, from Philadelphia, the battalion's chaplain, is

responsible for upholding the spiritual, religious and personal well being of the troops.

"I love the deployment with CLB-7," Hess explained. "I love the command and staff, the company commanders, all the Marines and Sailors ... it's been an awesome place to have my first tour as a chaplain, I absolutely love it."

But Hess didn't start off as a chaplain. In the early '90s, Hess was part of the enlisted active-duty ranks in the Navy as an aircraft director for four years. After his first enlistment, he became part of the

Navy Reserves while attending Houghton College, where he received a bachelor's of science in religion in 1999.

"I love the military and I love being a pastor," Hess said. "For years, those two were side by side as a reservist and as a civilian pastor.

"One day it just hit me," he said. "I should bring the two together, and so here I am."

A few years down the road – after September 11 – Hess was recalled for active duty as part of a Navy security team, where he served for three years.

"During my final year in the Navy security team, I applied for the chaplain corps [and I received my commission] in 2005," he explained.

Some of his duties as the bat-

talion's chaplain include marriage counseling, deployment stress counseling and helping troops with their personal problems. On top of the already demanding duties, Hess also maintains a morale center for the troops.

"We've sorted and distributed almost 500 care packages throughout the [area of operation]," Hess explained. "I also advise the command on ethical and moral issues and facilitate religious practices for people



Courtesy Photo
Navy Lt. Robert M. Hess (left) and Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian S. Kast in Marjah, Afghanistan, July 14.

WARRIOR
- OF THE -
WEEK



NAVY LT. ROBERT M. HESS

JOB: Chaplain

HOMETOWN: Philadelphia

Q: Why did you join the Navy?

A: "I wanted to serve my country."

Q: What's your favorite MRE?

A: "Chili Mac, of course!"

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

A: "The water purifier. As a secondary, I would want the MK 19 to blow up some fish for food."

Q: What baseball team are you rooting for?"

A: Phillies all the way, baby!

See CHAPLAIN, Page 6

Setting the Standard



Lance Cpl. William M. Kresse

Lt. Cmdr. Hagen McClellan, the chaplain with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), leads the Marines in prayer before a convoy to Forward Operating Base Nolay, Afghanistan, Aug. 19. The Marines and Sailors with the battalion conduct themselves as a family, not only training and operating together, but eating, sleeping and supporting each other constantly.

CLB-6 displays pride, aggression

Cpl. Katherine M. Solano
2nd MLG (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – There is evident pride when speaking to the Marines who make up Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). They boast proficiency and professionalism. They are aggressive in attitude and action. They build, repair, drive, deliver and support the incomprehensibly important infantry Marine in the battlefield.

They are proud, and along with their mission, they have a legacy to live up to.

“The sergeant major and I, and most

of the commanding officers and senior enlisted at the company have tried to just build a pride [here],” said Lt. Col. Ralph J. Rizzo, a native of Charlestown, Mass., and the commanding officer of CLB-6.

Respect, discipline, camaraderie and pride played a prominent role in the forming of the battalion and continue to promote the growth of its Marines.

“You can tell people what to do, but if you’ve earned their respect, they’re willing to do it just a little bit harder for you,” Rizzo emphasized. “Respect has to be given down the chain of command, but earned back up. Once a Marine respects

you, they will do anything for you. That is the unfailable truth. They will die for you if you’ve earned their respect.”

Discipline is a characteristic valued by the leaders as well as the troops of CLB-6.

“Discipline transcends the ranks as a leadership quality,” Rizzo said, leaning forward over his expansive desk as his voice rose with discernible conviction. “Here in [this] Battalion, the sergeant major and I have tried to adopt that philosophy: always be disciplined and everything else kind of happens from there.

“If a Marine has pride in him or herself, they will always be shaven, they will always wear their uniform correctly. That translates to: they will always make sure the truck is fixed right, the gear is loaded right and stabilized so we don’t lose the load out on the battlefield. We believe in discipline.”

The discipline of the Marines carries over from their large-scale support missions into the seemingly menial daily tasks, translating into fierce determination, driving them to not only complete, but to excel at every mission.

“We strive for something we can never achieve: perfection. You can’t achieve perfection, but if you settle for good enough, that is the enemy of perfection,” Rizzo stated, becoming silent as he contemplated what exactly he wanted for his Marines and what his goals for his battalion were. He continued on, softer-spoken, but with no less passion in his voice.

“I want us to be a unit that is still telling ourselves that we’re not quite there yet, and that way we won’t settle for good enough,” he said.

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Scattareggia, an Angier, N.C., native, and CLB-6 senior intelligence analyst concurred, saying “just being the best all the way around, displaying Marine Corps pride and showing pride in our unit, that’s the best thing CLB-6 can do.”

Even with this high standard for excellence and this passion for perfection, this determined unit has no qualms about their role in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

“I tell our Marines every day that we



“We won’t settle for good enough.”

Lt. Col. Ralph J. Rizzo Jr., commanding officer, CLB-6

Lance Cpl. William M. Kresse

Cpl. Joshua Wilson (foreground), and Lance Cpl. Andres Aledo, motor transport operators with CLB-6, complete preventive maintenance on their vehicles to prepare for upcoming convoys.

are not the most important Marines in the Corps,” Rizzo said with a slight smirk, recognizing the surprise this statement brings to listener’s faces. “It staggered some spouses when I said that one night. But the infantry Marine is the most important Marine in the Corps. We must feed him, water him, get him his mail, get him

his ammunition, and ensure he crosses the line of departure in the attack at the day, date and time he is supposed to. He can only do that if we have done all our work.

“But then I turn around and I tell them they are the most important Marines to their sergeant major and me,” he concluded.

His almost paternal pride manifests

itself in Rizzo’s eyes as he continues to speak about his Marines. He talks about how they are hard workers and despite the long hours and hot sun, they are quick with a smile and an ‘ooh-rah’.

“You can walk this lot and you will see Marines underneath trucks who probably have not had the sun hit their face since we landed here because they spend their entire day on their backs looking up at trucks,” began Rizzo. “How can I have a bad day if I get to sit in here, but the Marines are out there in the sun, sweating every day, fixing the same trucks.”

Rizzo calls his Marines his “center.” If he, in his own words, wakes up on the “wrong side of the CO bed,” all he needs to do is spend some time with his Marines.

“They will always bring me back around to center,” Rizzo said.

Bringing it all full circle is the family of CLB-6. The battalion’s family readiness program keeps the warriors’ loved ones informed and supported.

“I believe our family readiness program is one of the strongest my wife and I have ever been involved with in twenty-one years,” Rizzo said matter-of-factly. “If a Marine is concerned about what’s going on back home, their focus isn’t here. Generally, all a Marine wants to know is that their spouse, their loved ones, their children, are taken care of.”

Rizzo concluded his summation of his Marines by saying, “the thing that has impressed me the most, the thing I’m most proud of as the commander, is that we didn’t come in here timid. We didn’t come in here back on our heels ... It’s the aggression we came in here with.

“I tell the Marines, let’s not go in like lions and leave like lambs. Let’s leave this place with our last convoy being just as aggressive as our first. You are always remembered for the last thing you did, for how you leave someplace.”

CLB-6 continues to live out its lineage, while leaving a legacy.



Marine awarded during CG's battlefield tour

CHAPLAIN,
continued from Page 3

of other faith groups.

"I take care of [Personnel Retrieval and Processing] or mortuary affairs Marines and conduct ramp ceremonies and memorial services," he added. "I have duty at the Army [Combat Surgical Hospital] every three weeks and I am on call every time a wounded Marine or Sailor is brought in via [medical evacuation] to care for them."

Hess travels around to the different combat outposts and forward operating bases to visit the Marines and Sailors of the battalion. He also leads a weekly worship gathering, which has served almost 2,500 service members as well as civilian contractors, and gives all the warrior transition briefs to battalions before returning home.

"I love being here in Afghanistan with them, because this is where they need me the most," Hess said. "I'm able to help where the need is the greatest. That's the best place for a servant to be ... where the need is the greatest."

"The Marines are elite warriors and I identify myself with their spirit and their ethos," Hess concluded. "I wanted to be a part of it and wanted to serve the warriors that were taking the brunt of the fighting."



Cpl. Johan D. Gomez, a water support technician from Hoboken, N.J., receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Sgt. Maj. Richard M. Charron, 7th Engineer Support Battalion sergeant major, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), aboard Forward Operating Base Shamsheer, Afghanistan, Aug. 31, 2011. Gomez is the only logistics Marine at FOB Shamsheer and is responsible for processing 500 pounds of laundry a week in support of the Marines of 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and soldiers of the Afghan National Army.

Photos by 2nd Lt. James F. Stenger



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