



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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Bugged

Preventative Medicine team invades FOB Zeebrugge to quell growing pest problem

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After a colleague applied a broad spectrum insecticide to the area to eliminate a large nest of Oriental hornets, Lt. j. g. Noel Cote, an entomologist with Marine Air Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), seals a crevice with spray foam insulation in an effort to prevent additional hornets from nesting there during a pest treatment visit to Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, Afghanistan, Sept. 24. (Inset) Oriental hornets evacuate their nest after a broad spectrum insecticide was applied.

Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

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Well-Trained

Afghan soldiers graduate broad military course with instruction from active, retired servicemembers

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – More than 25 Afghan National Army soldiers with the 215th Corps Logistics Battalion graduated from a class led by Military Professional Resources Inc. at Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Sept. 26.

The 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) Embedded Partnering Team worked with MPRI to increase the Afghan unit's combat readiness over the course of the nine-week training cycle.

The MPRI team, comprised of retired senior enlisted servicemembers and officers, trains Afghan units in a variety of military fields. There are six subject matter experts on the team, covering medical, signal, transportation, logistical and food-service operations. The MPRI instructors led the classroom lessons, while the EPT Marines organized and conducted the hands-on practical application

portions of the course.

The instructors noticed that the students liked the hands-on parts of the courses the best, said Albert Juarez, the medical expert with MPRI. He also pointed out that the students were enthusiastic about every portion of the class, but especially the food-service course.

The culinary operations were just one piece of the training puzzle, but the ANA considers it to be an important one.

"You can't conduct missions when you are hungry," said 1st Lt. Mohammad Amin Ah zay, the assistant operations officer for the 215th CLB. "I consider this training to be very important to our combat missions."

Juarez said that some students excelled throughout the course and would have the opportunity to train fellow ANA soldiers in the future. Upon graduation, the instructors choose a few of the top students to participate in a 'Train the Trainer' course in order to continue to promote future Afghan forces' independence.



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

A soldier with the Afghan National Army 215th Corps Logistics Battalion proudly displays his certificate of graduation during a ceremony at Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Sept. 26, 2011. Approximately 25 students graduated from the nine-week course, which included classes in maintenance and medical procedures, logistics, tactics and field cooking.

BLOTTER



23 September 2011 - A Sailor with 2nd Medical Battalion reported an unknown person(s) stole (2) digital cameras from an unsecured desk drawer from FC-500. An investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$521.74.

25 September 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 24 approached the gate during a 100% identification card check and the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected from his breath and person. The Marine submitted to a series of field sobriety tests, which indicated impairment. The Marine was apprehended, processed and released to a unit representative.



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Seaman Brendan Straley organizes his medical kit after arriving to Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, Afghanistan, Sept. 2.

Mom inspires doc to overcome obstacles, put patients first

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

Seaman Brendan Straley had an interest in the medical field from a young age. At 17, he became one of the youngest students in Ohio to become a certified firefighter and emergency medical technician.

"Firefighting came natural to me, because my whole family is [made up of] firefighters," said Straley, a hospital corpsman with Marine Air Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.1, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward). "EMT work absorbed me, because it's like a puzzle. Solving the puzzle and seeing patients feel better is a good feeling."

Growing up in Utica, Ohio, Straley knew he would be unable to afford college on his own, so he joined the Navy after high school to pursue his dreams of becoming a family practice doctor.

"I was number five in my corps school class," Straley proudly stated. "I retain medical information really well. But being a corpsman is harder than an EMT. It's like I'm working on a 1,000 piece puzzle now."

When describing what initially got him interested in the medical field, Straley says

that his mother played the largest role.

"My mom put herself through physical therapy assistance school, so at a very young age I was exposed to medical stuff," he said. "She loves being a physical therapy assistant so much."

This passion carried over into Straley's career as a corpsman.

"The one experience I'm most proud of is when we were in Now Zad and this little boy came up, hopping and crying," Straley began. "All the other kids were yelling 'doctor, doctor', so I came running up. He had cut his foot open, so I bandaged it and gave him some medicine and candy. He hugged me and said 'thank you, doctor.' That touched me the most."

He also credits his mother for inspiring him to overcome obstacles and to continue to give the best patient care possible.

"She's probably the strongest woman I've ever met in my life," Straley said with a smile. "She's overcome cancer and never let anything get her down."

"She always taught us that no matter what happens, God isn't meaning for it to hurt you. It's supposed to make you stronger. That has stuck with me every day I'm out here," Straley finished.

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



SEAMAN
BRENDAN STRALEY

JOB: Administration Chief
HOMETOWN: Utica, Ohio

Q: Why did you join the Navy?

A: "I joined the Navy to pay for college."

Q: What's your favorite MRE?

A: "Chili with beans. I mix the cheese with jalapenos and crackers in with the chili."

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

A: "It would be a Marine, so I would never be bored, or a volleyball, so I could have someone to talk to."

Q: If you could do another job for a day, what would it be?

A: "I'd be a member of the selection board for Victoria's Secret supermodels."



PMU sailors exterminate pest problem at Zeebrugge

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ZEEBRUGGE, Afghanistan – As one of the more kinetic areas in the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward)'s area of operation, the valleys surrounding Kajaki Dam are often saturated with the cracks of rifles as gunships trace the sky. For nearly a decade, Marines and their allies posted throughout the area have been able to keep enemy forces at bay, but those who operate out of Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge have also had to contend with another insurgency that has taken hold.

Though less of a threat than what the troops may face in the scope of their daily duties, Oriental hornets and a breed of subterranean termite have still managed to become quite an annoyance to personnel aboard the hill-top base.

Answering a call for help, two Sailors with the Preventative Medicine Unit aboard Camp Leatherneck touched down in Kajaki, Sept. 24 to assess the situation and eliminate the threat festering within.

"These are the only buildings these guys have and it's all about protecting their assets out here," said Lt. j.g. Noel Cote, an entomologist with Marine Air Ground Task



(Top) A telltale sign of infestation, "tubes" like these found in a building at Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, Afghanistan, provide subterranean termites with a passage of travel above ground. Two Sailors from the Preventative Medicine Unit aboard Camp Leatherneck visited the base to quell a growing pest problem, which included Oriental hornets and termites. (Left) Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Walker, a preventative medicine technician with II Marine Headquarters Group, Regional Command Southwest, sprays a broad spectrum insecticide into an Oriental hornet nest at Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, Afghanistan, Sept. 24.

Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

The structures Cote spoke of form a small village built in the 1950s to support U.S. contractors who constructed the nearby dam. Though they consist primarily of a combination of concrete slab and field stone, the ceilings are made of wood beams – an enticing meal for the termites, much to the chagrin of the troops living within who often wake up to the pests falling into their beds.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Walker, a preventative medicine technician with II Marine Headquarters Group, Regional Command Southwest, spent several hours spraying infested areas with a broad spectrum insecticide, while Cote poured more than 25 gallons of a water and termiticide mixture around the perimeter of each building.

Once it has seeped into the ground, the lat-

ter will serve as a barrier against future infestations, noted Cote, a native of Duncan, Okla.

“Having water nearby in addition to the amount of wooded vegetation here to support a termite population can cause problems specific to this area,” said Walker, a native Kyle, Texas.

“We are more than happy to take care of this problem for them though,” he said.

The spray used will assist with the elimination of other insects such as ants and spiders. It is also effective against the hornets, which had created colonies for themselves in the aging concrete throughout the compound. The largest was found under a knee-high cement wall adjacent to a small outdoor gym.

Once the insecticide was applied to this particular area, Cote sealed the cracked concrete with spray foam insulation to prevent existing hornets from nesting again.

Though only time will tell, both Sailors felt this initial treatment may be all it takes to eliminate the issues.

“Unlike in the States where if people see one bug they saturate the area in an insecticide, the ones here have gone largely unchecked and are therefore more susceptible to the effects of just one treatment,” explained Cote. “They just aren’t used to it.”

No matter what the outcome, the team will keep a close eye on the well-being of the Marines and Sailors of FOB Zeebrugge.

Anything we can do to keep them healthy, happy and in the fight is our pleasure, said Cote.

“We are constantly touring the different bases to complete base camp assessments and taking care of these guys is our job,” added Walker. “This is what we are here for, to support them.”



(Left) Lt. j. g. Noel Cote, an entomologist with Marine Air Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), pours a termiticide and water mixture along the perimeter of a building during a pest treatment visit to Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge, Afghanistan, Sept. 24. (Bottom left) Walker and Cote utilize a broad spectrum insecticide to saturate a nest of Oriental hornets. (Bottom Center) An Oriental hornet lies at the base of its nest after being sprayed with a broad spectrum insecticide. (Bottom Right) A termite tunnel spans the wall of a structure at Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge.

Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

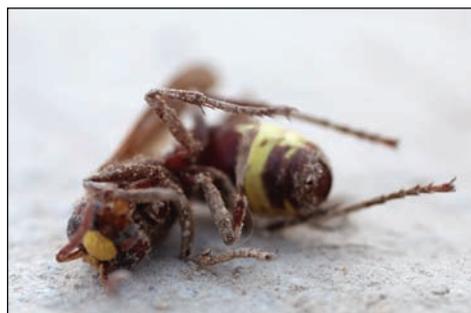




Photo by Sgt. Rachael K. Moore

Cpl. Colleen M. Doyle, a radio operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, talks to her instructor while negotiating the Richard Petty Driver Experience course at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, N.C., Sept. 21

Marines get schooled during Richard Petty Driver Experience

Sgt. Rachael K. Moore
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – According to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Traffic Safety Division, there is an average of 200 vehicle accidents per month on base.

In hopes to reduce that number in the future, the safety office brought in a team of professionals from the Richard Petty Driver Experience to educate the Marines and Sailors about the dangers of distractive driving as well as techniques they can use while driving.

“We are here to address a problem,”

explained Rick C. Fedrizzi, the President Chief Operator of the Richard Petty Driver Experience. “The problem is American heroes are dying on American soil, and a majority of them were preventable.”

The Petty Safe Driving course took place at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, N.C., Sept. 21, and focused on four topics: braking, reaction times, tailgating and loss of control.

“This course was designed and designated specifically for Marines and Sailors by the Clemson University Automotive Institute and conducted by the Richard Petty Driver Experience instructors,” said Staff Sgt. Glyndon G.

Murphy, a 2nd Marine Logistics Group safety specialist.

During the exercises, students were distracted by a cell phone and passengers. At a moment’s notice, while driving around the course, the stop light would turn red. The driver would then have to stop without hitting the simulated vehicle in front of them.

“[The Marines and Sailors] were taught how to mitigate motor vehicle mishaps by increasing situational awareness and how to negotiate when faced with unexpected events,” said Murphy.

The course also had classroom instruction where the students and instructors talked about real-life vehicle accidents and situations.

“The situations were about Marines of all ages who made poor decisions, whether it was not wearing a seatbelt or drinking and driving,” explained Cpl. Colleen M. Doyle, a radio operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd MLG. “We all make bad decisions, and it’s kind of like a slap of reality when you hear about the consequences.”

This is the first time the Marine Corps has brought in the Richard Petty Driver Experience, however, Murphy says she hopes it won’t be the last.

“This course was one of the most professionally ran courses I have ever seen offered to Marines and Sailors on any installation,” concluded Murphy, a Kansas City, Mo., native. “With the number of vehicle accidents happening here, we hope the techniques and lessons learned today will help mitigate the trend.”

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