



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

OCT. 7, 2011



2nd MLG (FWD) assists Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team in providing

SEEDS of HOPE

Staff Sgt. Jason Skaggs, a transportation coordinator with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), flies with four pallets of wheat and vegetable seed from Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan, to Kajaki, Sept. 30, 2011. See the full story on Page 6.

Photo by
Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

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'THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY'

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Second Maintenance Battalion concluded a seven-month deployment in support of International Security Assistance Force Operations as 2nd Supply Bn. took the reigns as Marine Air Ground Task Force Support Bn. 11.2 during a transfer of authority ceremony here, Sept. 30.

As MSB 11.1, the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Maintenance Bn., 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), were able to raise equipment readiness levels from 80 percent to 97 percent, while coordinating numerous operations throughout the battlespace.

The unit completed 52 combat logistics patrols, 21 immediate response team missions and traveled a total of 10,693 miles. MSB 11.1's surgical company was able to treat 1,104 patients, to include 352 battle-related injuries.

Lt. Col. Kevin Scott, the commanding officer of 2nd Maintenance Bn., was eager to praise his team of dedicated professionals.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to work with what I believe is some of our nation's best Marines and Sailors," proclaimed Scott.

"As we head back home, let's do it in the same fine fashion as when we came out."

Lt. Col. David Gibbs, the commander of 2nd Supply Bn. (MSB 11.2), began his remarks by thanking those in attendance, along with the staff of MSB 11.1 for their steadfast support in the turnover process.



(Above) Lt. Col. David Gibbs, the commanding officer of Marine Air Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), uncases the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Sept. 30. (Left) A Marine with 2nd Maintenance Bn., 2nd MLG (FWD), renders honors during a transfer of authority ceremony. Second Supply Bn. took the reigns as Marine Air Ground Task Force Support Bn. 11.2 from 2nd Maintenance Bn.

Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Supply relieves Maintenance as MAGTF Support Bn. in Helmand

He then delivered a statement of intent to his own Marines and Sailors.

"This is our opportunity to perform," he said. "It's an honor to serve America, an

honor to serve the Corps and we will provide the best support possible for [Regional Command Southwest] and II [Marine Expeditionary Force]."

BLOTTER



4 October 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 2 reported an unknown person(s) stole his gym bag, which contained various personal items and his wallet, which contained his Armed Forces Identification Card and money. A subsequent investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of stolen personal property is \$424 and the estimated value of stolen funds is \$150.

4 October 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 24 reported another Marine has scratched his vehicle with a rock. A witness stated he observed the offending Marine as she scratched the vehicle, and after contact was made via telephone, the Marine stated she would report to PMO at her earliest convenience.



WHY WE RUN:
Sanity

Editor's Note: 'Why We Run' is a three-part series highlighting runners of various backgrounds as they prepare for the Marine Corps Marathon aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct., 30, 2011.

Seasoned runner fights complacency by logging miles in preparation for MC Marathon in Afghanistan

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – For 1st Lt. Jeff Clement, fitness is what helps him fight the dangers of complacency while deployed in a combat zone.

Specifically, Clement runs. A lot. What began as a family affair 14 years ago has continued on throughout Clement's Marine Corps career.

"One day, my dad decided to become a runner and dragged the whole family into it," said Clement, the current operations officer for Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and native of Cary, N.C.

In the last decade and a half, running has taken Clement to some far-reaching locations where he has found himself participating in various races, to include the Marine Corps Marathon, the Virginia Beach Marathon, the Wrightsville Beach Marathon and the Washington, N.C. Half-Ironman Triathlon. But, according to Clement, the most interesting place his running shoes have taken him has been London.

"It was March and below freezing," he described. "I had only brought shorts, but was determined to run anyway. All the Londoners looked at me like the crazy American that I suppose I was. Then again, Americans

regularly look at me like I'm crazy too."

Currently, Clement is preparing to run the upcoming Marine Corps Marathon aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. He fits his training in any time and place he can.

"Out here, it's been tough to find enough time to do a full training plan," Clement said. "I have switched my focus to triathlon over the last year or so. Out here, I run as much as I can, but not nearly as much as I would in the rear. My approach for the actual race will just be to survive."

When describing the driving force behind his participation in the marathon, Clement says one of the important reasons he runs is to

"Running keeps me sane. It's a good way to relax."

1st Lt. Jeff Clement

fight complacency.

"On my last deployment, I was outside the wire almost continuously," Clement said. "It's challenging, but it's exciting and constantly changing. Being a staff officer [here] is honestly harder mentally—the 'drudgery' factor can lead to complacency. Running helps to fight that.

"Running keeps me sane. It's a good way to relax. It's also a good way to have short term goals. There's always the next race to be working toward."

Clement says that after this marathon, he has no intention of slowing down. He plans on completing an Ironman triathlon in 2013.

"I can't imagine not running," he concluded.

**WARRIOR
- OF THE -
WEEK**



**1ST LIEUTENANT
JEFF CLEMENT**

JOB: Current Operations officer
HOMETOWN: Cary, N.C.

Q: Why did you join the Corps?
A: "I would say to 'kill,' but you probably get that a lot. Honestly, to learn."

Q: What's your favorite MRE?
A: "I generally refuse to eat MREs. I survive instead on smuggled Clif Bars, Famous Amos cookies and the misery of others."

Q: If you were stranded on a deserted island with one piece of issued gear, what would it be and why?
A: "Boots. As long as your feet are good, you can improvise the rest."

Q: If you could do another job for a day, what would it be?
A: "Ski patrol. That has to be the greatest gig."



Cpl. Carlos Sanchez, a heavy equipment mechanic with Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, provides security as Marines continue work on a causeway into the Helmand River near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan, Sept. 27.

Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Truckin' *7th ESB drives Helmand River causeway completion*

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

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A causeway continues to extend across Helmand River thanks in large part to the continued efforts of Marines assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

The unit has made daily trips to the site over the last three weeks, each time hauling several metric tons of rubble to form the foundation of the growing peninsula. The compacted cement and dirt mixture will serve as a base to launch a forthcoming bridge that will span the remainder of the river.

“This will open an alternate ground route from 611 to 606,” said Capt. Charles Hunt, the company commander for Charlie Company, 7th ESB.

This new route will afford troops operating in the region with a safer route to areas northwest of Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, noted Hunt, a native of Decatur, Ala.

“It’s really going to help us push forward once it’s completed,” said Cpl. Carlos Sanchez, a heavy equipment mechanic with Support Co., 7th ESB, who, along with a detachment of others, is attached to FOB Sabit Qadam to liaison with the Marines who arrive with rubble-laden trucks each day.

The project consists of five phases – the development of the far and nearside approaches to the river made up phases one and two, with the third being the completion of the causeway itself. Phase four will be the launching of a medium-girder bridge from the edge of the causeway to the far side of the river and the project will

culminate as the roadways are developed into one network.

As of Sept. 27, phase three was just mere feet from completion.

“Every day for the last three weeks these guys have run this route to make this project happen and they’ve done an outstanding job,” said Hunt. “It’s really turned into a joint effort, though.”

Hunt noted that in addition to his own 7th ESB Marines, Combat Logistics Battalion 6, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 Seabees and Marine Wing Support Squadron 272 all played an instrumental role in completing the causeway. On top of providing trucks to assist with hauling the debris to the site, some units even provided extra manpower.

“We couldn’t have done it without them,” he said.

“Every day for the last three weeks these guys have run this route to make this project happen.”



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Capt. Charles Hunt, company commander for Charlie Company, 7th ESB

For the past three weeks, Marines from 7th Engineer Support Battalion have hauled several metric tons of broken concrete and stone to the banks of the Helmand River near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan. The debris serves at the foundation of a causeway, which will provide a platform for a forthcoming bridge project.



(Left) A Marine with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) guides a line of Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement vehicles down a causeway into the Helmand River near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan, Sept. 27. (Above) Cpl. Wade Hale, a heavy equipment operator with Support Company, 7th ESB, directs the driver of a dump truck into place during a causeway construction project. Marines have unloaded several metric tons of rock and concrete at the site which will eventually serve as a platform to launch a medium-girder bridge that will span the remainder of the river.

Photos by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

For the past three weeks, Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion have been the driving force behind the construction of a causeway in the Helmand River, near Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam. Once completed, the peninsula will serve as a platform for the construction of a medium-girder bridge that will span the remainder of the river and will aid in linking Routes 606 and 611.

Wheat seed distribution gives hope to Helmand locals

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

KAJAKI, Afghanistan – For decades now, Afghan locals have been relying on a crop cycle of poppy and cannabis to provide income and a stable livelihood for their families.

According to the United Nations, profits from the narcotics trade are directly linked to the insurgency in Afghanistan, creating \$155 million in revenue in 2009, while Afghanistan supplies roughly 90 percent of the world's opium.

It is the mission of the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team's counter-narcotics cell to

give the local populace an alternative to the drug trade by way of wheat and vegetable crops.

For the previous three years, the PRT has been conducting seed and fertilizer distribution efforts in Helmand province. The program, initiated by the Helmand provincial governor, Golab Mangal, has touched the lives of more than 40,000 farmers and their families this year, according to Maj. William Bye, a key developer in the wheat seed distribution program with the PRT in Lashkar Gah.

By promoting the harvest of legitimate food crops, the PRT looks to drastically reduce the effects of the heroin drug trade

in the area, which currently affects nearly 100,000 citizens in Helmand province alone.

"Everybody in Helmand knows somebody who is addicted or has a family member themselves who is addicted," Bye said. "They've seen the devastating effect it has on those individuals. They are also reasonably well educated in the fact that the insurgency gains a lot of their income from poppy and from the opium trade. They're aware that the insurgency is killing them and is making their freedom of movement difficult. So on the whole, they generally do not want to grow poppy. They are

receptive to persuasion to grow something else, if they've got the security and the freedom of movement to do so."

It has been the joint efforts of the combat forces of Regional Command (Southwest), the Afghan Uniformed Police and the Afghan National Army to provide locals with this security and peace of mind over the last four years while the counter-narcotics cell implemented the project.

Bye also pointed out the far-reaching effects the poppy crops have on the international drug trade. He emphasized the importance of giving Afghans a

See SEED, Page 7



Photos by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

(Above) Ten pallets of wheat and vegetable seed and fertilizer are stacked on a flight line in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan, before they are transferred to Kajaki, Sept. 30, 2011, where they will be distributed to local farmers. (Right) Wheat and vegetable seed are loaded onto an aircraft.

Welcome Aboard



Navy Capt. Efren S. Saenz (right), the outgoing commanding officer of 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, passes the battalion's colors to Navy Capt. Cameron L. Waggoner (left), the incoming commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 30, 2011, aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Photo by
Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

2nd Med Bn. welcomes new commanding officer

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – The mid-autumn weather and a radiant North Carolina sun made the perfect conditions for a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, Sept. 30.

Hundreds of Marines and sailors with 2nd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group gathered en masse to witness the passing of the colors to the new commanding officer, Navy Capt. Cameron L. Waggoner, from Port Huron, Mich., at the ceremony.

During the event, Col. Christopher B. Edwards, the CLR-25 commanding officer, shared his remarks with the Marines,

Sailors and family members present at the ceremony about the command.

“This is no regular command ... this is a special battalion,” Edwards said. “They fix people, and they do it well.

“They keep the troops healthy and ready,” Edwards added.

The outgoing commander, Navy Capt. Efren S. Saenz, originally from El Paso, Texas, explained during his remarks how important the medical field is in the Navy and Marine Corps. Combat readiness begins with healthy troops.

He concluded his speech expressing his appreciation to all the members of the battalion who are currently with 2nd MLG (Forward) in Helmand province, Afghanistan, supporting International Security Assistance Force operations.

SEED, *continued from Page 6*

lifestyle alternative to stabilize the country in order to positively affect the rest of the world.

“Heroin from Afghanistan is found routinely on the streets in Europe and in America,” he said. “Where there are illicit drugs, there is always violence and crime associated with it. If we can reduce the amount of heroin that is flowing into our markets, then we can work on reducing the crime that is found at home.”

According to Bye, over the past four years, the program has spread to 11 surrounding districts. The most recent district to become involved was Kajaki. Up until Kajaki joined the distribution efforts, the seed had been delivered solely by ground movements. However, Kajaki can only be reached by air.

The 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) was called upon to provide logistical support for the first air delivery of the seed and fertilizer to Kajaki. Staff Sgt. Jason Skaggs, a 2nd MLG (FWD) transportation coordinator, assisted in the movements of the wheat seed from Lashkar Gah, where it is held in large warehouses, to Kajaki. Thirty-four warehouse pallets weighing a total of 21 metric tons will be delivered over the course of the next several weeks.

Skaggs weighed in on the benefits of promoting wheat and other crops over the harvest of poppy.

“Wheat can provide income and food, whereas poppy is a cash crop that is made into an illegal drug, causing instability due to its addictive nature,” he said. “Poppy will only degrade the Afghanistan culture further.”

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