



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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Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Marines with Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), unload packages from a large truck during mail call aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 9



Signed, Sealed, **Delivered**

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INSIDE



Marine credits UAVs for saving lives on battlefield ... Page 2

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Courtesy Photo

RQ-7B Shadow is an unmanned aerial vehicle operated by Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 in the skies of southwestern Afghanistan. Each Shadow carries a camera, which surveys and streams video to higher headquarters and ground units, giving them a full perspective of the battlefield.

'A Remarkable Asset'

Marine convoy commander says unmanned aerial vehicles saved his life in Afghanistan

Cpl. Justin Boling

2nd MAW (FWD) Public Affairs

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Marine Unmanned Aerial Squadron 3's Shadows operate out of multiple sites in Helmand province, allowing the drones to survey virtually every corner of the southwestern region under NATO's International

Security Assistance Force.

"Mission after mission we were exposed to a barrage of small arms fire, medium machine gun, heavy machine gun and sniper fire in addition to [roadside bombs] and [rocket and mortar attacks]," wrote 1st Lt. Marcos Garcia in a letter to Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3. "We were forced to take similar routes

due to their trafficability and the enemy exploited this."

Garcia served as a convoy commander with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) in Helmand province, Afghanistan for seven months.

According to his letter, his convoy suffered eight improvised explosive device strikes, three artillery and rocket attacks, 10 small-arms-fire engagements and three

complex ambushes while moving fuel trucks throughout southwestern Afghanistan. That was until Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 got involved, using their RQ-7B Shadow drones to provide invaluable aerial surveillance and reconnaissance for Garcia and his Marines.

"The turn in events truly took place as soon as the Shadow supported our convoys," wrote Garcia. "The Shadow is a remarkable asset that should be employed by any convoy traveling in a highly kinetic environment."

Marine Unmanned Aerial Squadron 3's Shadows operate out of multiple sites in Helmand province, allowing the drones to surveil virtually every corner of the southwestern region under NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

"Our primary goal is to provide information needed to make operations successful," said Gunnery Sgt. Jarrad Demster, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3's Camp Leatherneck detachment.

According to Demster, a native of Boise, Idaho, the survey footage collected by the Shadow is utilized by both ground and aerial forces to plan their actions and ensure they are conducted safely and intelligently.

Improvised explosive devices present a serious threat to ground

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BLOTTER



6 October 2011 - A Marine with 2nd Maintenance Battalion reported an unknown person(s) stole various unsecured CIF-issued items. A subsequent investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of the stolen government property is \$1,495.17.

6 October 2011 - A Marine with 8th Engineer Support Battalion reported during a command-authorized inventory of another Marine's residence that he found two Navy Federal debit cards and one government credit card that were not issued to him. The owner of the cards stated they were stolen from his unsecured vehicle, but no unauthorized transactions had occurred and a report was not filed.



WHY WE RUN:
Clarity

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.

Marine marathoner finds solace, focus during early morning runs

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – 1st Lt. Hannah Paxton does not have decades of running under her feet like many other runners of her caliber. She logged a mile here and there throughout college, but really didn't start distance running until 2008.

Despite her short running career, she has completed seven marathons to date. During her training seasons, she runs five-to-six days a week, averaging 40 miles per week.

"Initially it was about fitness and just to stay in shape," said Paxton, a supply officer with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and native of Lima, Ohio. "It kind of progressed into training for basic training. Then, I realized I just enjoyed it. I love getting up in the morning and being up when nobody else is. You feel like you own the place, run-

ning down the middle of the road like you own it, because no one else is up then."

In three years, Paxton has developed an unwavering passion for running.

"For me, it's a very personal time," Paxton said. "It's my time to get away, do my own thing and think about things."

She explained that running, whatever time of day it is, gives her a chance to sort through whatever she may be experiencing at work or in her personal life. She calls

"It's my time to get away, do my own thing and think about things."

1st Lt. Hannah Paxton

it 'me time.' Paxton said that while her favorite time to run is at sunset, she is most happy running on the beach, regardless of the time or climate.

She completed her first marathon within a year of taking up avid running and is currently training to compete in her eighth: the Marine Corps Marathon being held aboard Camp Leatherneck, Oct. 30.

Paxton refers to the personal time, and the act of running itself, as an 'addiction', but one that she doesn't plan on giving up anytime soon.

WARRIOR
- OF THE -
WEEK



1ST LIEUTENANT
HANNAH PAXTON

JOB: Supply Officer
HOMETOWN: Lima, Ohio

Q: Why did you join the Corps?
A: "I get paid to play outside and get dirty."

Q: What's your favorite MRE?
A: "It's a toss-up between Cheese Tortellini and Veggie Lasagna."

Q: If you were stranded on a deserted island with one piece of issued gear, what would it be and why?
A: "550 cord and boot bands. Their utility is endless."

Q: If you could do another job for a day, what would it be?
A: "When I was a kid, I always thought it would be cool to be a mailman. I'd still be up for it for a day."



Mail Call



Photos by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

(Top) Lance Cpl. Rich Gregg, a radio operator with Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), catches packages being unloaded from a large truck during mail call aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 9. Receiving a letter or package from a loved one back home is a welcome morale booster for Marines and Sailors stationed throughout Helmand province. (Above) Marines unload mail after it arrives at the 2nd MLG (FWD) compound via truck. (Left) A Marine sorts packages as they are unloaded during the day's mail call.

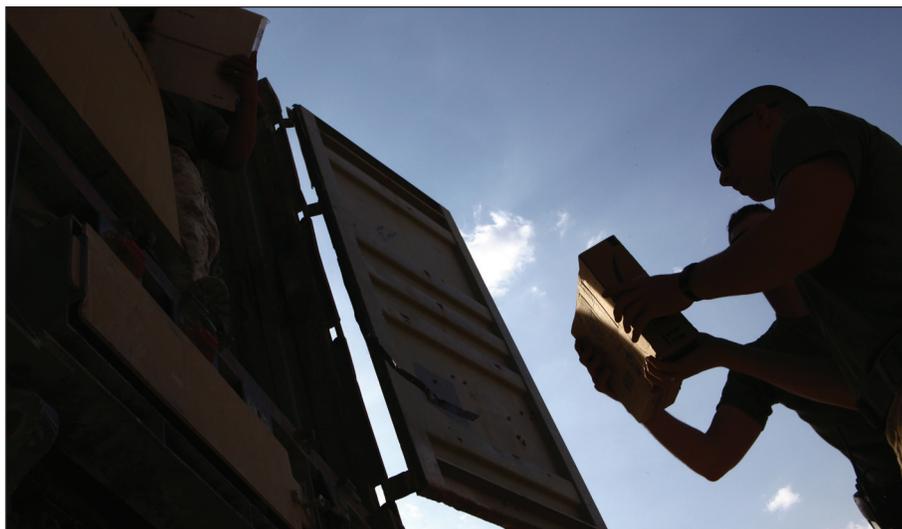


Photo by Katherine M. Solano

(Above) Lance Cpl. Peter Hager, a motor transport operator with MSB 11.2, 2nd MLG (FWD), carries a package to the mail room.

Photo by
Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

(Below) Marines with Marine Air-Ground Task Force 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), unload packages from a large truck during mail call aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 9. Mail is delivered to deployed servicemembers all year round, even on holidays.



(Left) Sgt. Johnny Morales, a field wireman with MSB 11.2, 2nd MLG (FWD), opens a package from his cousin, Oct. 11, aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. The package contained Halloween candy, coffee and various hygiene items.

Photo by
Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Determination

Gunnery Sgt. James J. Dacey, the company gunnery sergeant for Support Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, is currently training to run from Camp Lejeune to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.



Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

8th ESB Marine sets sights on 345-mile run in honor of fallen service members

Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. -- Ready for a 14-mile light jog from main side Camp Lejeune, N.C., to Court House Bay, N.C., and back? Gunnery Sgt. James J. Dacey is.

The company gunnery sergeant for Support Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group isn't one to be reckoned with. Dacey, a 35-year-old North Arlington, N.J., native, runs at least nine miles six days a week and toward the end of October, he will embark on an even greater journey.

"I'm going to run from the front gate of Lejeune to Bethesda," Dacey said. "It's in honor of fallen service members and for the wounded warriors at the hospital."

There are countless reasons a man would attempt 345-mile run from Camp Lejeune to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., a distance which spans three

states, but for Dacey, the spirit of determination is in his blood.

The attitude he brings to everything he does in life, including his job, is due in part to his upbringing by his mother who raised three children on her own. Dacey says she is a hero to him.

"The way my mother managed to raise me and my two sisters is incredible," Dacey said. "Sometimes she might not realize what good of a job she did, but I can't say enough for what she's done for our family."

As he moves forward through his career, Dacey confronts every new challenge with the same determination his mother had displayed while raising three children. As a young adult, he viewed the challenges which only the Marine Corps could provide as the next logical step.

"I originally joined for a change of life," Dacey said. "I wanted something more for myself. Life was getting stagnant, and I wanted to challenge myself. It's one of the best decisions I've made."

DRONES,
continued from Page 2

forces that travel throughout southwestern Afghanistan. For Garcia and his Marines, the presence of the Shadow allowed them to mitigate the threat posed by roadside bombs.

"We can watch areas for strange behavior and use our camera to scan for signs of [improvised explosive devices]," said Demster. "This allows us to ensure convoy routes are safe for travel before the vehicles in the convoy even start their engines."

On Aug. 28, Garcia and his Marines were attacked by more than 35 insurgents. The Shadow offered Garcia and joint tactical air controllers the information needed to place precise fire on enemy fighting positions.

Four Hellfire missiles and a 500-pound, laser-guided bomb quickly put a stop to the enemy assault.

"We aid attack aircraft and artillery assets to deliver more effective fire on targets," said Demster. "We can also keep eyes on the target to ensure the success of the strike."

Garcia wrote that he owes his life to the Shadow and the Marines of Marine Unmanned Vehicle Squadron 3.

"The Shadow has proven reliable, effective and ... devastating against enemy forces," wrote Garcia. "I'm convinced that lives were saved [by this asset]."

"It feels great to be reminded how important our work is," said Demster of Garcia's letter. "My Marines got to hear the tangible result of their efforts and feel a sense of accomplishment."



Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Through the use of an interpreter (right), Sgt. Maj. William T. Stables (second from right), the sergeant major for 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), discusses the principles of being an effective non-commissioned officer to approximately 20 NCOs from the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps Logistics Battalion at Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Oct. 3. Stables touched on several hallmarks of Marine Corps leadership to include values, communication, understanding and respect.

2nd MLG (FWD) hosts leadership talk among Afghan NCOs

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

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – In the spirit of continuing education, Marines with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) Embedded Partner Team hosted a non-commissioned officer leadership discussion with their Afghan counterparts, Oct. 3.

Approximately 20 NCOs with

the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps Logistics Battalion gathered for the two-day seminar to learn what it truly means to be in their respective positions of authority.

As the instructors spoke, the men were all ears.

"Set the example, do the right thing and exercise fairness," said Sgt. Maj. William Stables, the sergeant major for 2nd MLG (FWD), as he ad-

ressed the troops.

With the aid of an interpreter, Stables touched on several hallmarks of Marine Corps leadership to include values, communication, understanding and respect. He also noted the importance of knowing their troops and that regardless of their differences it is the NCOs' job to bring everyone together.

"We want to build good relationships between our officers and troops," said Sgt. Maj. Abdul Razaq, the 215th CLB sergeant major.

His soldiers have benefited

greatly from their mentors and the fact that senior Marine leadership offered their time to assist with further lessons in professional military conduct and policy is tremendous, he continued.

"We want to show them what a professional corps of NCOs is," said Master Sgt. Daniel Hitzhusen, the EPT's senior enlisted mentor for the 215th CLB. "They are eager to learn and some of what they will learn today will be implemented right away.

"We just want to give them the proper tools for their NCO toolbox."

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