

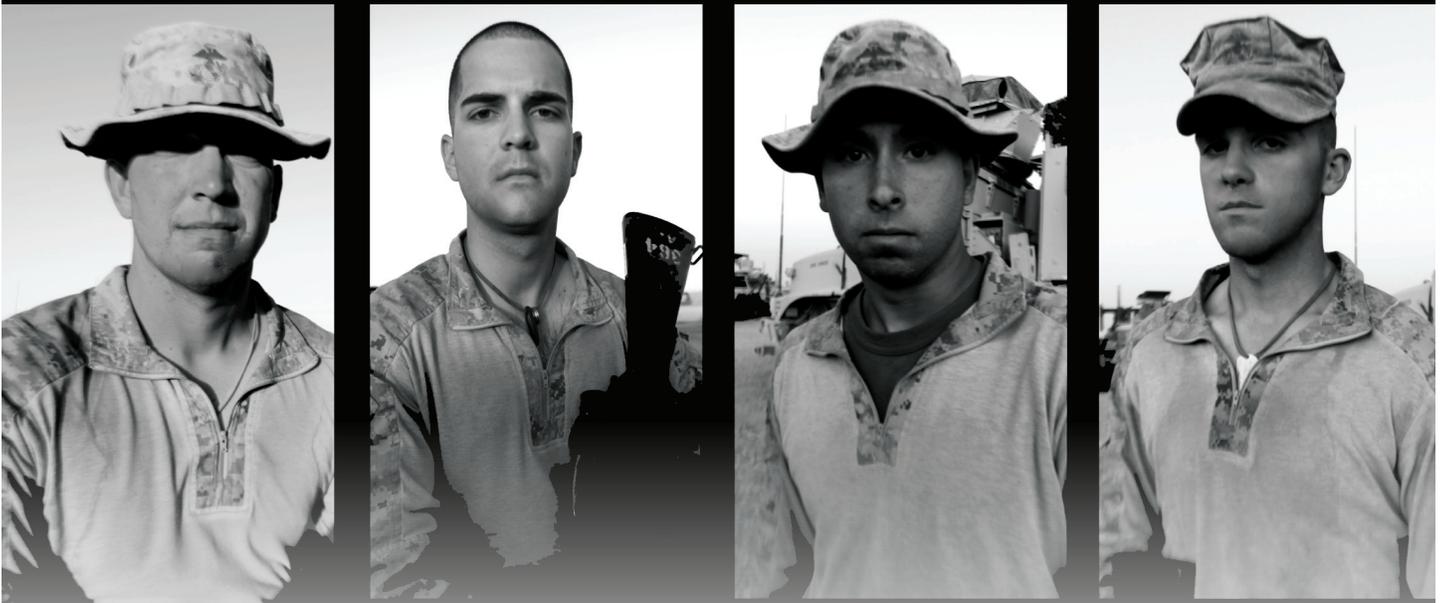


THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

(From left to right) Lance Cpl. Adam Roos, Cpl. Ryan Kaethow, Sgt. Thomas Bolander and Cpl. Joshua Keeton are Marine Corps Reservists who have spent the last three months shoulder-to-shoulder supporting combat operations in Helmand province. All Marines currently serve with Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6 – an element of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and belong to the same parent unit, Military Police Company Charlie, in Dayton, Ohio.

Ohio Marines support the fight in Helmand

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Sgt. Peter A. Swigart and Lance Cpl. Tyler B. Comar, combat engineers with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, construct a hut during Operation Continuing Promise in Jamaica, which took place from April to September 2011.

Courtesy Photo

Marines complete 5-month humanitarian mission

Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marines are well known for victories and hard fought battles throughout history, but humanitarian missions are also part of the Marine Corps' mission.

Five Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, took part in Operation Continuing Promise, a five-month humanitarian mission through the Caribbean and South America from April to September 2011.

The detachment helped rebuild schools and clinics, and even built two classrooms from the ground up.

"It was a good experience all around,"

said Staff Sgt. Mauricio Molinadiaz, who was the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the group. "All the people we encountered were really grateful."

Most people the Marines encountered weren't just grateful, they showered them with thanks and gratitude to an almost surreal level the Orlando, Fla., native said.

A total of 15 engineering and construction projects were completed in Jamaica, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Haiti.

"These people were thanking us for things we take for granted on a daily basis," Molinadiaz said. "We don't always realize it, but schools and medical services are things other countries don't have."

Some of the areas visited during the op-

eration had hundreds of students but only one classroom, Molinadiaz explained.

"This whole experience was life changing," he said. "You don't expect countries and cities to not have schools, clinics or medical supplies, but there are places that don't."

"I'm just glad we got the opportunity to give a lending hand on the behalf of the Marine Corps," he concluded.

Whether defending others in foreign lands, or making an effort to help countries in need, the Marine Corps sets forth with its best effort.

Molinadiaz and his team of four Marines showed their dedication to helping others, not just for their country but also for people across the globe.

BLOTTER



20 October 2011 - A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 27 reported an unknown person(s) stole various pieces of CIF-issued gear from his unsecured barracks room. An investigation revealed no leads or suspects. The estimated value of stolen government property is \$982.17.

22 October 2011 - North Carolina State Highway Patrol discovered a practice grenade with fuse in an 8th Engineer Support Battalion Marine's car during a search at the scene of an accident. The grenade was seized and transported to the Ammo Supply Point for safekeeping. Naval Criminal Investigation Division was notified and assumed investigative jurisdiction.

Fit to Fight



Photo by Cpl. Katherine M. Solano

Staff Sgt. Jason Skaggs, a 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) transportation coordinator, works out in the Griffin Gym aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, during the early morning hours, Oct. 4.

Southern Marine hits fitness stride during Afghan deployment

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

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – After Staff Sgt. Jason Skaggs first arrived in Afghanistan, he took full advantage of the luxuries offered aboard Camp Leatherneck, like ice cream and fried foods. Once it was announced that a weigh-in would be conducted, Skaggs knew he had to make some changes.

First to go were the fried foods. He recruited the help of Marines from all around his unit to get him motivated in the gym. Thirty days later, he was 15 pounds lighter and markedly stronger.

He hasn't looked back since.

Skaggs, a 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) transportation coordinator and native of Corning, Ark., said that fitness is about more than just looking good to him. It's about the camaraderie and the bonds formed. The relationships he has developed in the gym have kept him focused, as well as fit, on his year-long deployment.

"You meet people in the gym, develop friendships," he said. "Some of the Marines I'm close with, I only know from the gym."

He claimed that without his fellow gymgoers supporting him, he would be unable to stay committed to any type of regimen. With their help, he has stuck with a weight-lifting routine.

"They learn your strengths and weaknesses and push you to your limit," Skaggs said.

In addition to his gym partners pushing him, Skaggs said his wife is a huge inspiration behind his goals.

"She says she will love me no matter what I look like, but coming home from a deployment looking good and different always puts a smile on her face," Skaggs said.

He intends to continue with his fitness goals throughout the end of his deployment. He has loosened up on his diet restrictions, though, stating that sometimes chocolate ice cream is a must, but he still watches what he eats regularly. Skaggs is always striving to do better than his last workout.

"It feels good to improve in the gym," he said.

WARRIOR - OF THE - WEEK



STAFF SERGEANT
JASON W. SKAGGS

JOB: Supply administration
HOMETOWN: Corning,
Arkansas

Q: What is your job description in civilian terms?

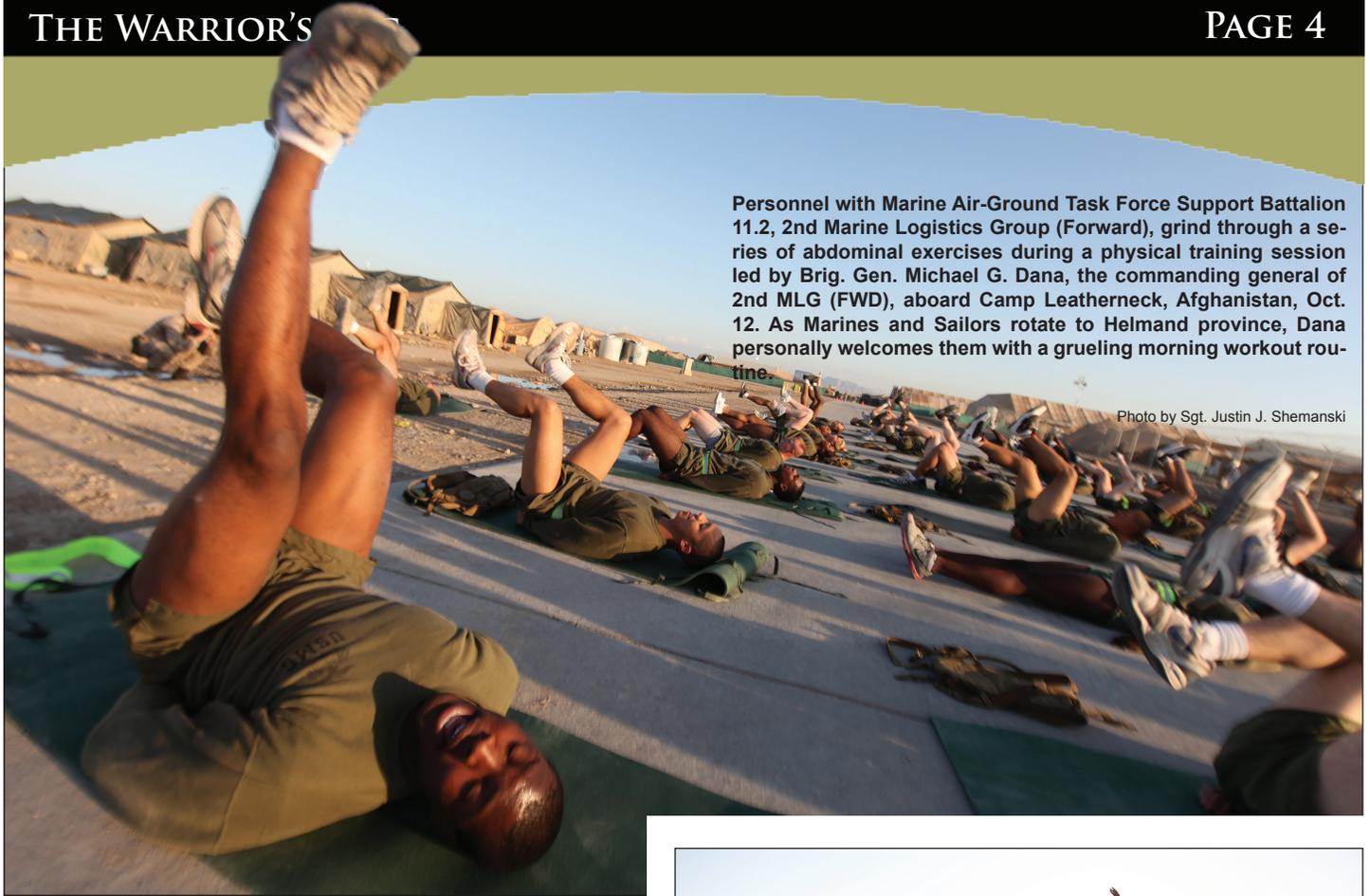
A: "I could easily run a warehouse distribution center. My background has trained me to order, stock and issue various pieces of gear depending on what unit I am with at the time."

Q: How does your job contribute to the overall mission?

A: "It involves a lot of planning, coordinating and tracking movements of various cargo within the area of operation."

Q: What hobbies/activities to you do with spare time?

A: "Besides working out, Gameboy DS and movies."



Personnel with Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), grind through a series of abdominal exercises during a physical training session led by Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, the commanding general of 2nd MLG (FWD), aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 12. As Marines and Sailors rotate to Helmand province, Dana personally welcomes them with a grueling morning workout routine.

Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

CG's PT



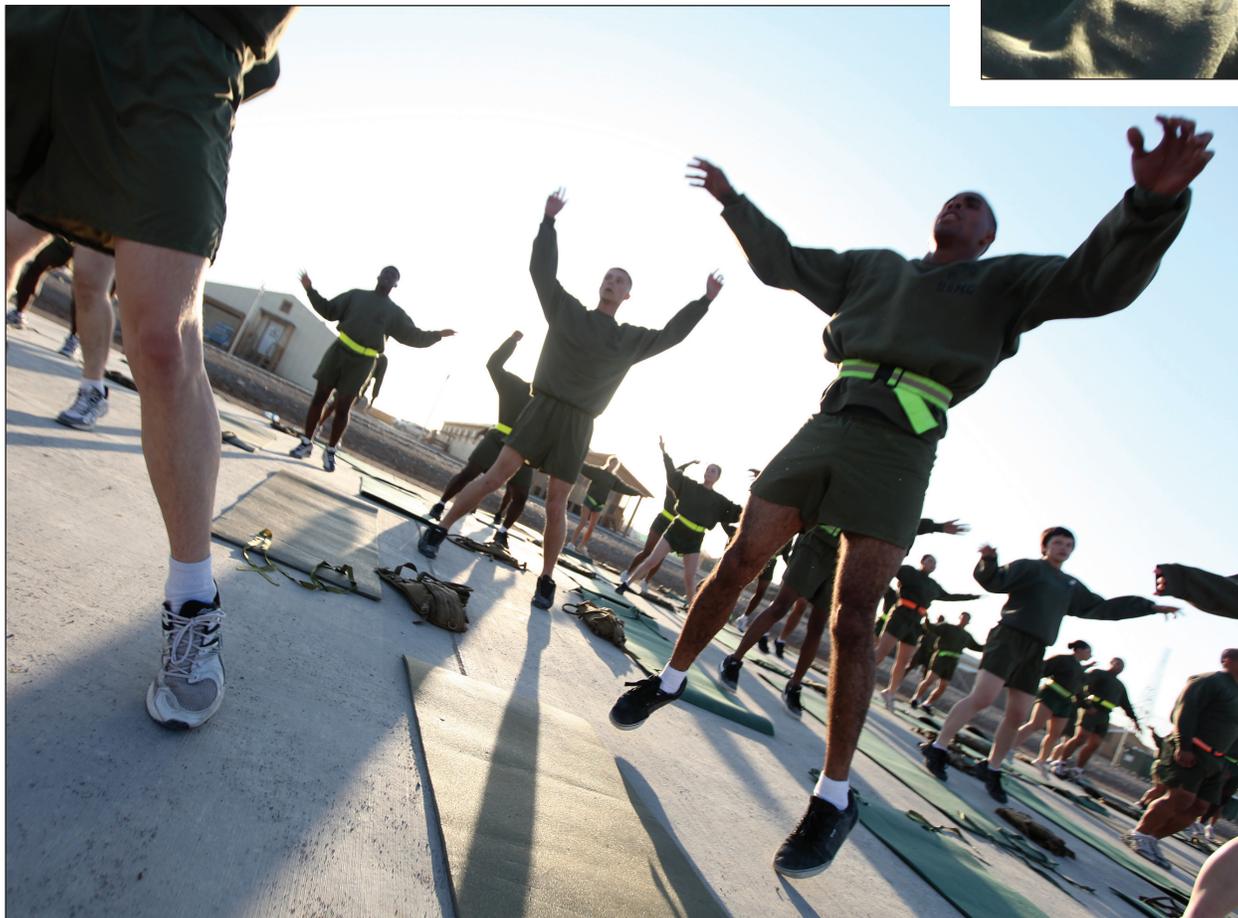
Photos by 2nd Lt. James F. Stenger

(Above, right) Personnel with MSB 11.2, 2nd MLG (FWD), execute a variant of the side-straddle hop during a physical training session led by Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, the commanding general of 2nd MLG (FWD), aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 12. (Above) Dana leads a group of Marines and Sailors through a grueling set of abdominal exercises during a physical training session aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 12.



Photos by 2nd Lt. James F. Stenger and Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

(Above) Personnel with Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), perform a back exercise during a physical training session led by Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, the commanding general of 2nd MLG (FWD), aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 12. The hour-long workout is Dana's way to personally welcome newcomers to the 2nd MLG (FWD). (Right) Marines with MSB 11.2, 2nd MLG (FWD), display faces of pain as they participate in a series of abdominal crunches led by Dana aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 12.



Personnel with MSB 11.2, 2nd MLG (FWD), perform side-straddle hops during a physical training session lead by Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, the commanding general of 2nd MLG (FWD), aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 12. Dana welcomes new Marines and Sailors with a grueling morning workout routine, which tests their physical and mental resolve.

Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

'IT'S AN HONOR'

(Clockwise from back row, left) Sgt. John Paul Rodriguez, Cpl. Joshua Kelley, Cpl. Joshua Keeton, Sgt. Thomas Bolander, Cpl. Ryan Kaethow and Lance Cpl. Adam Roos pause for a photograph moments after returning to Forward Operating Base Nolay, Afghanistan, Oct. 16. Ohio natives Keeton, Bolander, Kaethow and Roos are Marine Reservists who have spent the last three months supporting combat operations in Helmand province.

Photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski



Ohio Reserve Marines support combat operations in Helmand

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NOLAY, Afghanistan – Many of the familiar trappings of life are half a world away from the small base nestled atop a hill on the outskirts of the Sangin Valley, but a handful of the Buckeye State's own who are based here have found echoes of home in each other.

Hailing from cities and towns across Ohio, four Marine Corps reservists have spent the last three months shoulder-to-shoulder supporting combat operations in Helmand province. The rush of war has drawn the quartet closer, but other familiarities existed among them long before their boots touched down in Afghanistan.

Their parent unit, with which they perform their monthly drills together, is Military Police

Company Charlie based in Dayton, Ohio.

"It's great being out here with these guys," said Lance Cpl. Adam Roos, of Cincinnati.

Roos, a married father of one daughter, serves as a machine gunner with Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 6 – an element of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

"To be able to talk about home and our families, and get to know the guys you drill with back home is nice. It makes us that much tighter," he said.

Corporals Ryan Kaethow, of Columbus, and Joshua Keeton, of Fairborn, Ohio, are also married with children of their own.

"We'd spend time together on drill weekends and our wives still talk now that we are gone," said Kaethow, who drives the lead truck for his platoon's security team within the company. "There's a closeness."

This closeness is, in part, rooted in

another combat zone.

The men chewed some of the same dirt during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when they were activated in 2009. They returned home in January 2010.

A year ago, each of them was nearly settled back into their respective post-deployment lives as college students, restaurant managers and tree trimmers, when the opportunity for active service came knocking once again. Though they had been home for barely a year, all three men, along with security team leader Sgt. Thomas Bolander, of Toledo, Ohio, volunteered to head to Afghanistan.

The Marines are currently tasked with daily missions escorting resupply convoys throughout their area of operation. On occasion, they complete multiple trips in one day. The pace is a grueling one, but in the end, they all agree their time and effort factor into a greater purpose.

"It's all about support," said Kaethow, as he explained how critical it is to ensure the riflemen have what they need to continue the fight. "We fuel their operations."

The four, along with the rest of CLB-6, still have a few months to go before they head back stateside. Though the busy schedule before them occupies nearly every minute of every waking hour, Ohio is never far from their minds.

I just miss being at home with my family, friends and my dog, said Bolander.

Kaethow's daughter, now 2-years-old, was born while he was in Iraq. He looks forward to spending time with her and his wife.

"We keep up in e-mails and pictures, but I've missed a lot of developments," he said. "I just want to watch her grow up."

Family is important to them and it's the same sense of dedication which drew them toward military service in the first place. It's still evident today as they provide direct support to the infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

The unit is currently fighting its way through the Upper Sangin Valley of Northern Helmand province.

"It's an honor to be part of CLB-6 and to do our part to support 1/6," said Bolander.

Kelley, who serves as a vehicle commander and navigator, added, "By the time we left Iraq, things were winding down, but here it's fast paced ... a lot more activity. It's great to be a part of something so big."



Gunnery Sgt. James J. Dacey, company gunnery sergeant for Support Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, begins his 345-mile run to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 22.

Photo by Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado

345 miles for wounded warriors, fallen servicemembers

Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado *2nd MLG Public Affairs*

CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C. – Running 345 miles is a short distance compared to the journey some wounded warriors have to travel.

Gunnery Sgt. James J. Dacey, company gunnery sergeant for Support Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, began his challenge aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., Oct. 22.

The North Arlington, N.J., native is conducting the run to raise awareness about our nation's wounded warriors and

for the servicemembers we've lost to the war.

Whether people thought Dacey was crazy or thought it was a great idea, there was no doubt he would take on the challenge said Debbie Melamed, Dacey's mother and safety driver for the run.

"I'm very proud of my son," Melamed said. "I'm not surprised he's doing it. He has never second guessed himself either. Once he said he was going to do it that was it. He's always been a determined person ever since I can remember."

Melamed was given three weeks of leave from her job at a law firm in Hackensack, N.J., to help her son along his run.

"I was amazed he asked me to be the one to help him," she said. "This is a huge responsibility, and I'm very proud of him for what he's doing in honor of his fellow troops."

As her son runs his course, Melamed will drive ahead and check the route for him. She will then wait at the half way point each day for Dacey and ensure all is well. If Dacey isn't at the destination within a certain amount of time, his mother will back track and check on him. If needed, they will stop the run and take proper precaution to keep Dacey safe from injury.

"We've taken the right steps to make sure we are ready for

the run," Dacey said. "Safety was a big concern."

With his mother ready to go and on her way to the half way point for the day, Dacey was off. He bid farewell to all in attendance.

"Thank you to everyone who came to watch me begin," he said. "Thank you for all the support."

As Dacey ran down the road, those in attendance sent him off with a motivational "OORAH".

To track his progress, follow "The Gunny's Run to Bethesda" on Facebook or make a donation at the link below.

<http://www.proudsupporter.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.aspx?event=308932&supid=327279344>

COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM T. STABLES

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
CMDMCM RUSSELL W. FOLLEY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS
1ST LT. JOSHUA SMITH
2ND LT. JAMES F. STENGER (FWD)

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
SGT. RACHAEL K. MOORE
CPL. BRUNO J. BEGO
CPL. KATHERINE M. SOLANO (FWD)

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